

**Trump advisers vent frustrations about 2018 strategy as president listens**

**Josh Dawsey and Robert Costa, The Washington Post**

Within hours of celebrating President Trump's biggest legislative achievement, at the South Portico of the White House on Wednesday, his aides and outside advisers had a spirited, and at times tense, discussion with him about the political outlook ahead of next year's midterm elections. The gathering saw tempers flare as aides vented their frustrations with electoral defeats this year and concerns about the 2018 political map, according to several people with knowledge of the discussion.

**Trump targets human rights abusers with executive order**  
**Victoria Guida, Politico**

President Donald Trump cracked down Thursday on individuals and groups that his administration deems to be perpetrators or enablers of human rights abuses and corruption, the first action under a broad sanctions law passed a year ago. Trump signed an executive order declaring a national emergency related to "serious human rights abuse and corruption around the world" and imposed sanctions on 13 individuals, using his authority under the 2016 Global Magnitsky Act.

**Trump Administration Official Opposed Abortion for Teen Impregnated After Rape**  
**Brent Kendall, The Wall Street Journal**

A Trump administration official who oversees undocumented minors in U.S. custody recently sought to deny a teenager permission to abort a pregnancy that was the result of a rape, according to a newly released court document. "Even supposing it was possible to justify abortion in this context, abortion does not here cure the reality that she is the victim of an assault," Scott Lloyd, director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, wrote in a memo dated Dec. 17.

**President Donald Trump Watches Far Too Much Tv,  
Americans Say In New Poll**  
**Linley Sanders, Newsweek**

President Donald Trump needs to make a New Year's resolution to power off the television if he wants Americans to think he's a good commander in chief. Trump makes an effort to watch at least four hours of television daily-sometimes up to eight when his schedule allows-and a new poll indicates that Americans think it's hurting his job performance.

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**Senate**

**Mitch McConnell Is Unlikely to Push for Social Security and  
Medicare Changes in 2018**  
**Siobhan Hughes and Natalie Andrews, The Wall Street Journal**

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Thursday he was unlikely to tackle changes to Social Security or Medicare next year, potentially extinguishing the hopes of House Speaker Paul Ryan to wring savings from the entitlement programs. "The only way I would be willing to go to entitlement reform-I assume that's a euphemism for things like Social Security and Medicare-would be if there were Democratic support," Mr. McConnell said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

**Senate has spent over \$1.45M settling harassment,  
discrimination cases in last 20 years**  
**Jordain Carney, The Hill**

The Senate spent more than \$1.45 million settling workplace harassment and discrimination cases over the past 20 years, according to data released by the Senate Rules Committee on Thursday. The Office of Compliance (OOC) paid nearly \$600,000 in claims stemming from senators' offices across a total of 13 settlements, according to the data.

**A Senate Christmas Present: Several Trump Nominees  
Confirmed**  
**Niels Lesniewski, Roll Call**

At the very end of an acrimonious first year working with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office, the Senate reverted to form, looking very much like the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell came to the Senate floor after 9:30 p.m. to call for voice votes on a slew of pending Trump nominees to posts across the federal government.

**In private meeting, Schumer angrily confronted by Hispanic  
Caucus members as prospects for DACA deal slip again**  
**Ed O'Keefe, The Washington Post**

Disagreements among Democrats over how to keep fighting to enact legal protections for immigrant "dreamers" boiled over in the office of Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer on Thursday as he met with members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in what several participants described as a tense and heated exchange. In a vivid display of growing divisions in the party over how to fight Republicans on immigration policy, members of the Hispanic Caucus - a 31-member group of House and Senate Democrats - walked off the House floor Thursday afternoon and headed across the Capitol to Schumer's office suite.

**Brownback won't get vote this year, GOP senator says**  
**Jonathan Shorman et al., The Wichita Eagle**

Gov. Sam Brownback will continue to wait for confirmation as ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, after the Senate Republican leader said he doesn't know when a vote will take place. Brownback's nomination is nearly half a year old, but negotiations between Senate Republicans and Democrats are set to push a vote into January.

**'We're losing the war for truth': Franken denounces Trump, GOP in final floor speech**  
**Elise Viebeck, The Washington Post**

Sen. Al Franken bade farewell to Capitol Hill on Thursday with a lengthy broadside against the policies of the Trump administration and a call for politicians to commit themselves to "honesty in public discourse." The speech put to rest questions about whether Franken (D-Minn.) would follow through on his promise to resign over more than a half-dozen allegations that he had touched women inappropriately.

## **House**

**Ethics committee expands Rep. Farenthold probe**  
**John Bresnahan, Politico**

The House Ethics Committee announced late Thursday that it was expanding its investigation into GOP Rep. Blake Farenthold to include allegations he improperly used official resources for campaign activities, as well as lying to the panel. Farenthold is already under investigation over claims that he sexually harassed at least one former staffer.

**Release of plan to change Congress' harassment rules is delayed**  
**Elana Schor, Politico**

Bipartisan House negotiators on Thursday delayed the release of a plan to overhaul Capitol Hill's workplace harassment policy, but the move appeared to signal momentum for action when Congress returns to Washington in 2018. As five House Republicans and Democrats who have worked on a consensus deal to modernize congressional office misconduct policy described themselves as "very close to finalizing" their proposal, a key Senate Republican involved in talks on Hill harassment policy sent another positive signal about action as soon as next month.

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## States

### **Oyster shucking? A duel? No, Virginia will pull a name from a film canister to settle tied election**

**Jenna Portnoy, The Washington Post**

On CNN, they were holding up film canisters. On Twitter, there were suggestions of an oyster-shucking contest.

### **How states are coping with uncertainty of kids' health money** **The Associated Press**

Examples of how states have been reacting to the threat of running out of federal money for the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was unclear how their plans might change with the short-term federal funds Congress approved Thursday.

### **Poll points to all-Democrat runoffs in California races for governor and senator**

**Seema Mehta, Los Angeles Times**

Californians could see two Democrat-on-Democrat contests in the state's premier races in 2018, according to a new poll released Thursday. In the gubernatorial race, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom remains the front-runner with the support of 26% of likely voters in a Berkeley IGS poll.

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## Advocacy

### **Republicans plan mega marketing push to sell unpopular tax plan**

**Kevin Robillard et al., Politico**

Conservative groups are planning a multimillion-dollar effort to sell the GOP's tax cut law, hoping the American electorate can learn to love the party's signature - but massively unpopular - legislative achievement.

"We have a public that distrusts anything coming out of Washington, especially anything from the majority party," said Tim Phillips, president of Americans for Prosperity, the grass-roots organizing arm of the powerful Koch brothers network of conservative groups.

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

**This Tax Bill May Do Some Good**  
**Peggy Noonan, The Wall Street Journal**

On the tax bill we begin grouchy and wind up, as befits the season, hopeful. Grouchy: Wednesday afternoon's big White House rally celebrating its passage was embarrassing.

**The Four Threats to Robert Mueller**  
**Richard W. Painter and Norman L. Eisen, The New York Times**

At least for the moment, it seems that Robert Mueller, the special counsel, may keep his job. President Trump declared this week that he does not currently intend to fire him - a concession, perhaps, to the overwhelming public opposition to such a move.

**The stench of Trump's self-dealing**  
**Joe Scarborough, The Washington Post**

The political system is rigged for the richest insiders in America. When we talk about the insider, who are we talking about?

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## **Research Reports and Polling**

**New Year, Same Priorities: The Public's Agenda for 2018**  
**The Associated Press and National Opinion Research Center**

Health care, taxes, immigration, the environment, and education top a long and diverse list of the American public's policy priorities for the coming year. The public would like to see Washington expend considerable effort dealing with their top concerns for the country.



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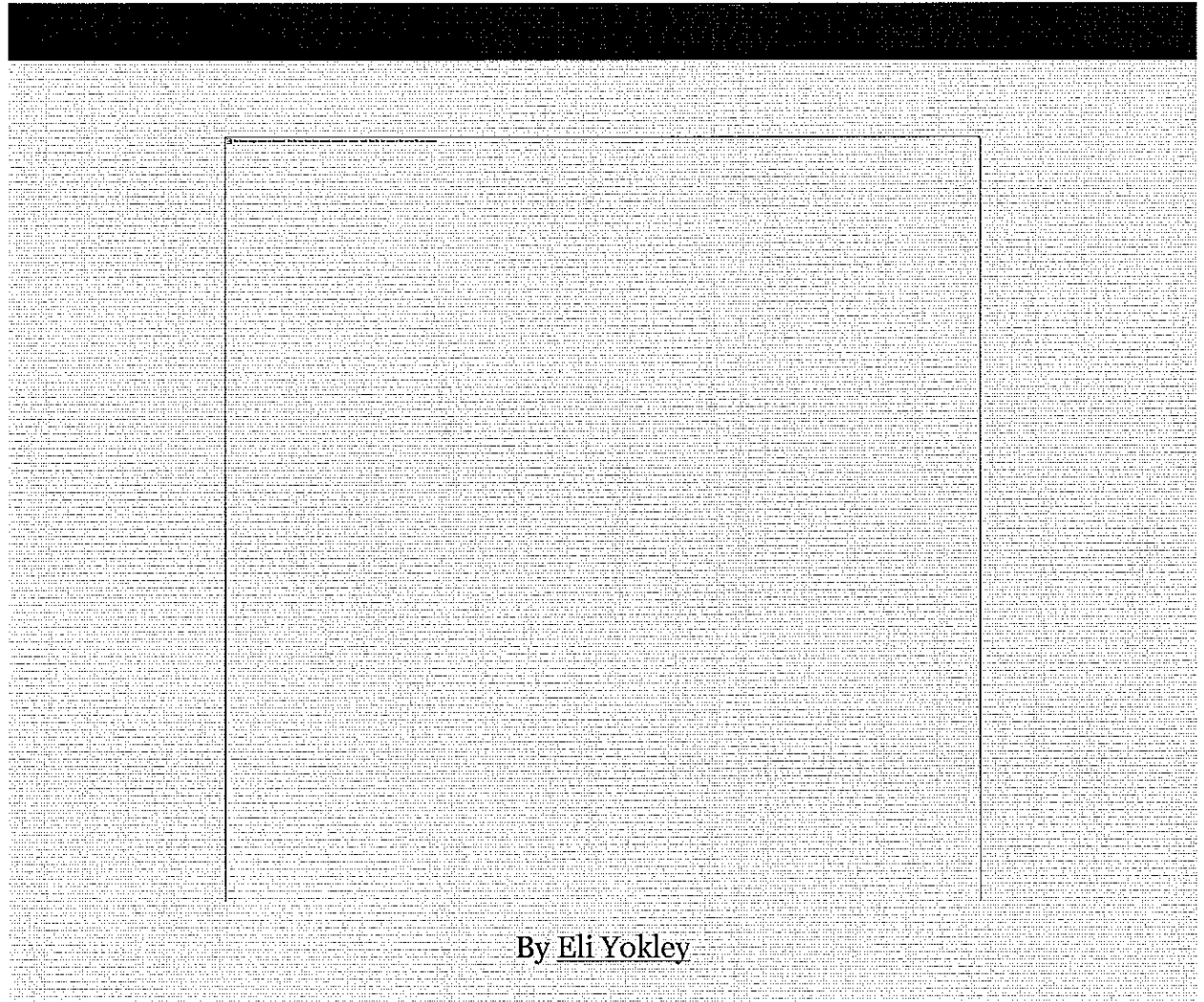
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Chairman Ed Royce to Retire  
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By Eli Yokley

## Top Stories

- Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.), who is serving his final year as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he will not seek a 14th term in Congress. Royce's district, which Democrat Hillary Clinton won in 2016, is considered key to Democrats in their attempt to regain control of the House during the November midterm elections. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- The White House and congressional Republicans are increasingly skeptical that lawmakers will be able to reach a long-term budget agreement before Jan. 19, when funding runs dry, raising the likelihood of another temporary stopgap spending measure. Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-Texas) said Democrats are holding a deal "hostage" over a provision they want included that would shield hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants from deportation. ([Politico](#))
- Republicans are moving away from their effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and they're scaling back ambitions to overhaul social safety net programs, opting instead to focus on funding the government, raising the debt limit and striking a deal on immigration ahead of the midterm elections. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) had mentioned plans to tackle entitlement spending, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has warned against a partisan overhaul of the programs and Trump appears more aligned with him. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))
- Vice President Mike Pence plans to visit the Middle East from Jan. 19-23, with stops in Egypt, Israel and Jordan. Pence had initially planned to visit the region before Christmas, but the trip was postponed amid the tax overhaul debate on Capitol Hill and an uproar in the Middle East over the Trump administration's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. ([The Washington Post](#))

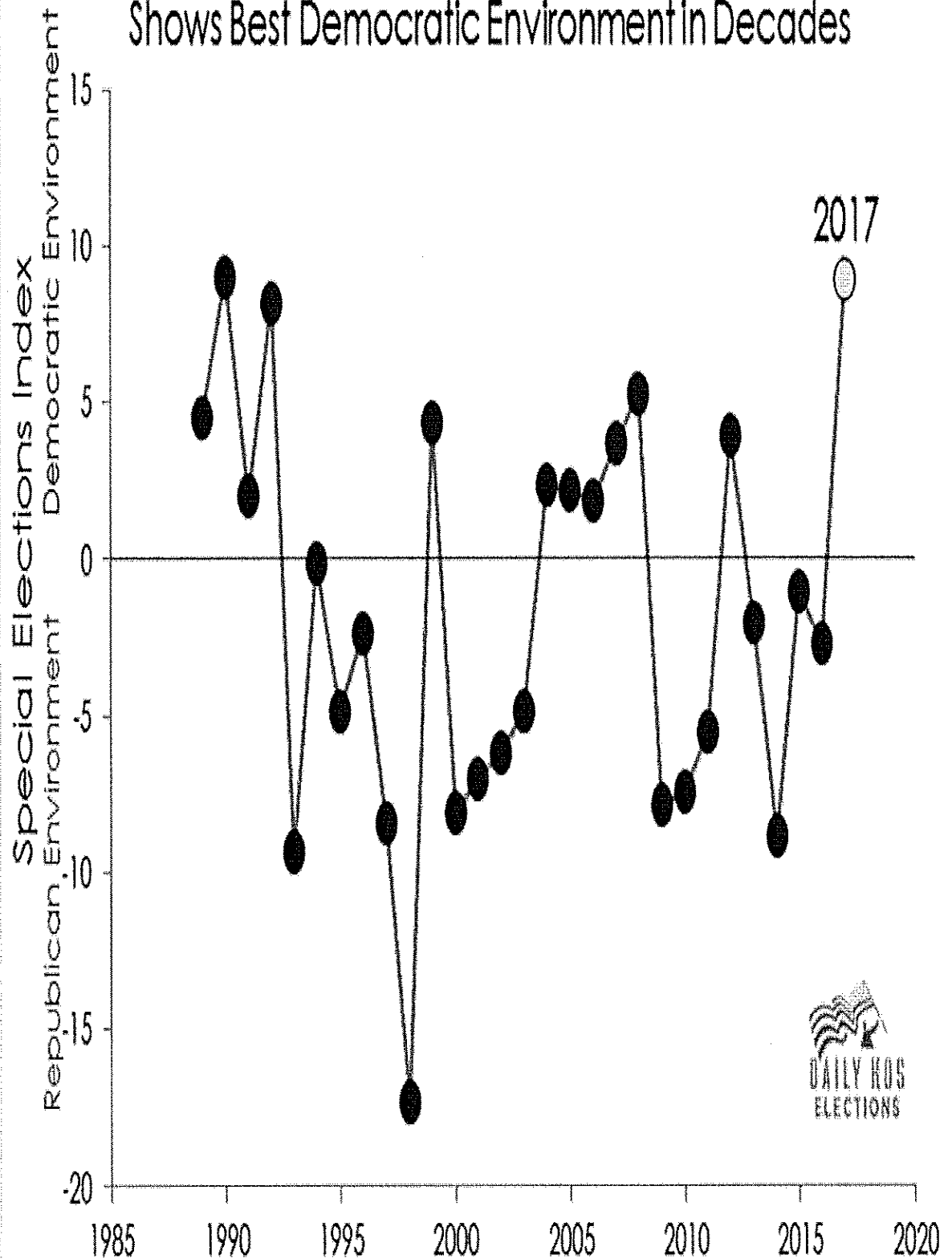
## Chart Review

**Introducing the Special Elections Index: This year is the best environment for Democrats in decades**

**Daily Kos**

# Special Elections Index

Shows Best Democratic Environment in Decades



## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### TUESDAY

House Energy & Commerce subcommittee hearing on DOE modernization	10 a.m.
House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on border security	10 a.m.
Senate HELP Committee hearing on the opioid crisis	10 a.m.
Senate Finance Committee hearing on anticipated nomination of Alex Azar to be HHS secretary	10 a.m.
Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on attacks on U.S. diplomats in Cuba	10 a.m.
Council on Foreign Relations event on potential and ongoing crises in 2018	12:30 p.m.
Wilson Center event on security challenges in East Asia	2 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

U.S. Chamber of Commerce's State of American Business address	9:30 a.m.
House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on implications of upcoming elections in Western Hemisphere	2 p.m.

### THURSDAY

Rep. Cuellar speaks at Brookings Institution event on the costs of a border wall

8:30  
a.m.

Rep. Bera speaks at Stimson Center event on South Asia crises

8:30  
a.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S. policy in Syria post-ISIS

10 a.m.

## **FRIDAY**

No events scheduled



# 2017

## **2017 Brands in Review**

Last year, Morning Consult conducted nearly 1 million survey interviews on nearly 1,000 brands. Get a never-before-seen look at how public perception changed for the world's biggest brands.

## **General**

### **Republicans: Budget deal prospects are dimming** **Rachael Bade et al., Politico**

Congressional Republicans and White House officials are increasingly skeptical that they'll reach a long-term budget agreement with Democrats in the next 11 days, accusing progressives of slow-walking a spending deal until they get what they want on immigration. Party leaders from both sides of the aisle have been quietly working to raise stiff spending caps to avert a government shutdown before Jan. 19, when federal agency funding runs dry.

### **Republicans Scale Down Agenda for Safety-Net Programs, Health Law** **Kristina Peterson and Stephanie Armour, The Wall Street Journal**

Republicans are scaling back their ambitions to overhaul safety-net programs and dismantle the Affordable Care Act following President Donald Trump's weekend retreat with GOP leaders, due to concerns they can't muster enough support ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. Instead, Republican lawmakers are likely to embrace a slimmed-down agenda focused on the basics, including funding the government, raising the government debt limit and striking a deal on immigration, according to GOP lawmakers and aides.

### **North Korea to join Olympics in South Korea as tensions ease** **Hyung-Jin Kim, The Associated Press**



The rival Koreas took steps toward reducing their bitter animosity during rare talks Tuesday, as North Korea agreed to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea and reopen a military hotline. The meeting, the first of its kind in about two years, was arranged after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made an abrupt push for improved ties with South Korea following a year of elevated tensions with the outside world over his expanding nuclear and missile programs.

**Talk of Oprah running for president captivates Democrats**  
**Robert Costa, The Washington Post**

From Hollywood to Iowa, a sudden wave of enthusiasm for Oprah Winfrey as a potential presidential candidate swept through the Democratic Party on Monday, beginning as a social-media sensation after her rousing remarks at Sunday night's Golden Globes ceremony and escalating nationally as party officials and activists earnestly considered the possibility. The calls for Winfrey, a cultural icon and friend of former president Barack Obama's, to look hard at entering the 2020 race against President Trump revealed a longing among Democrats for a global celebrity of their own who could emerge as their standard-bearer and his foil.

**Fusion GPS: Trump-appointed judge has conflicts, should recuse**  
**Josh Gerstein, Politico**

The private investigation firm behind the so-called Trump dossier - Fusion GPS - is arguing that a Trump-appointed federal judge has so many conflicts of interest that he should recuse himself from a legal case stemming from BuzzFeed's publication of the dossier earlier this year. Fusion's lawyers say the impartiality of U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden is open to question because he represented a firm owned by a Russian businessman who claims he was libeled by publication of the dossier and he was a top lawyer at the Justice Department's Criminal Division last year when Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley requested an investigation into Fusion.

**Tillerson tells AP Cuba still risky; FBI doubts sonic attack**  
**Josh Lederman and Matthew Lee, The Associated Press**

The United States would be "putting people intentionally in harm's way" if it sent diplomats back to Cuba, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says in an Associated Press interview, even as a new FBI report casts doubt on the initial theory that Americans there have been hit by "sonic attacks." Following months of investigation and four FBI trips to Havana, an interim report from the bureau's Operational Technology Division says the probe has uncovered no evidence that sound waves could have damaged the Americans' health, the AP has learned.

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with clerk hires, signals desire to outlast Trump**  
**Joan Biskupic, CNN**

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg marks her 25th anniversary on the Supreme Court this year, and the cultural icon known as the "Notorious RBG" recently signaled that she intends to stay at least through 2020 by hiring law clerks for at least two more terms. Ginsburg, who turns 85 in March, would have to stay another decade to near the record of William O. Douglas, who served the longest at 36 years.

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## **Presidential**

**Pence reschedules Middle East trip for late January, adds stop in Jordan**  
**Jenna Johnson, The Washington Post**

Vice President Pence's office has announced new dates for his delayed trip to the Middle East: Jan. 19-23. Pence was originally scheduled to travel the week before Christmas, but postponed the trip so he could remain in Washington in case his vote was needed to pass tax legislation.

**Mike Pence Plans Active Role in GOP's 2018 Campaign**  
**Peter Nicholas and Michael C. Bender, The Wall Street Journal**

Vice President Mike Pence is jumping into the midterm elections, planning visits soon to Nevada and Pennsylvania and helping recruit a candidate in Ohio amid an aggressive push to retain Republican control of Congress. Mr. Pence, in an interview at his White House office Monday, conceded that history shows it is difficult for the president's party to stave off midterm election losses, but said that economic gains could help Republicans strengthen their grip on the Senate.

**The White House struggles to silence talk of Trump's mental fitness**  
**Philip Rucker and Ashley Parker, The Washington Post**

The White House is struggling to contain the national discussion about President Trump's mental acuity and fitness for the job, which has overshadowed the administration's agenda for the past week. Trump publicly waded into the debate spawned by a new book, "Fire and Fury" - Michael Wolff's inside account of the presidency - over the weekend by claiming on Twitter that he is "like, really smart" and "a very stable genius."

**Federal Regulators Rule Against Trump Administration on Power Plants**  
**Timothy Puko, The Wall Street Journal**

Federal energy regulators on Monday rejected a Trump administration proposal aimed at shoring up struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to bolster the nation's electricity grid, saying the administration hadn't persuaded them the plan was needed to ensure the system's reliability. The administration plan, proposed in September, is one of its biggest initiatives to help those fuels compete amid a boom in gas-fired and renewable power.

**Trump renominates McFarland to be ambassador to Singapore**  
**Jordan Fabian, The Hill**

The White House on Monday renominated K.T. McFarland to be ambassador to Singapore, even though her nomination appeared in doubt over her involvement in the Russia investigation. McFarland's name was included on a list of more than 80 nominees the White House sent to the Senate on Monday, many of which were resubmitted because the upper chamber did not complete work on them last year.

## **Senate**

### **Senate bill to reverse net neutrality repeal gains 30th co-sponsor, ensuring floor vote** **Harper Neidig, The Hill**

A Senate bill that would reverse the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to repeal net neutrality received its 30th co-sponsor on Monday, ensuring it will receive a vote on the Senate floor. Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) announced her support for the bill on Twitter, putting it over the top of a procedural requirement to bypass committee approval.

### **Trump and Corker mend fences after 'Liddle Bob' tweets** **Andrew Restuccia, Politico**

In October, President Donald Trump labeled Tennessee Republican Sen. Bob Corker an "incompetent" critic of his tax reform plan who "couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee." And Corker, in turn, accused the president of "debasing" the country and vowed not to vote for him again.

### **Hillbilly Elegy' author Vance urged to run for Senate** **Seung Min Kim and Kevin Robillard, Politico**

Top Senate Republicans have quietly reached out to J.D. Vance - the star author of "Hillbilly Elegy" - about running for Senate in Ohio after the abrupt withdrawal of GOP candidate Josh Mandel last week. Senate

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has spoken with Vance about a potential bid, according to three sources familiar with the discussions.

## House

### **California Republican Rep. Ed Royce won't seek reelection, creating bigger opening for Democrats**

**Christine Mai-Duc and Sarah D. Wire, Los Angeles Times**

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Ed Royce announced Monday he will not run for reelection, boosting Democrats' chances of winning his Southern California district as they work to regain control of the U.S. House this year. The Republican from Fullerton was the first of his California colleagues to announce a retirement in what's expected to be a tough year for the GOP.

### **Pair of lawmakers unveil bipartisan DACA plan**

**Tal Kopan, CNN**

A bipartisan pair of House members have reached a compromise on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and border security - a plan the two unlikely allies hope could provide a "foundation" for a deal President Donald Trump could sign into law. Reps. Will Hurd, a Texas Republican, and Pete Aguilar, a California Democrat and whip for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, have been quietly working for weeks to develop their legislation, which the two sophomore lawmakers are releasing as a discussion draft as talks heat up on DACA ahead of a government funding deadline January 19 being used as leverage in Congress.

### **Arkansas Rep. Womack likely next House budget chairman**

**Rachael Bade and Sarah Ferris, Politico**

Senior House Republicans vote Tuesday night to replace outgoing House Budget Chairman Diane Black, who's stepping down to run for Tennessee governor. Most have their money on Rep. Steve Womack.

## **Republicans scrutinize FBI's media contacts in Russia case** **Kyle Cheney, Politico**

Broadening their political counterattack in defense of the White House, President Donald Trump's allies in Congress are placing new scrutiny on contacts between top Justice Department officials and reporters covering the Trump-Russia investigation. In recent weeks, GOP congressional investigators have publicly and privately questioned senior Justice Department and FBI leaders about interactions with reporters covering the Trump campaign's connections to Russia.

## **Conor Lamb says he wouldn't support Nancy Pelosi to lead House Dems** **Wes Venteicher, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**

Democratic Congressional candidate Conor Lamb said Monday he wouldn't vote to give Nancy Pelosi another term as U.S. House leader if he is elected to Congress. Lamb, 33, who is running for a March special election to replace former Rep. Tim Murphy, said both parties in the House need new leadership, having failed to adequately address the nation's heroin epidemic or what Lamb called its "crumbling infrastructure."

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## **States**

### **Dennis Kucinich is running for Ohio governor against 6 other Democrats** **Laura A. Bischoff, Springfield News-Sun**

Former Cleveland mayor and U.S. member of Congress Dennis Kucinich is running for Ohio governor, joining an already crowded field in the Democratic primary. Kucinich filed paperwork with the Ohio Secretary of State on Monday to declare his candidacy and name a campaign treasurer.

**Democratic hope for ending GOP majority in Virginia House hangs on a thread**

**Fenit Nirappil and Laura Vozzella, The Washington Post**

Virginia Democrats on Monday seem to acknowledge the increasingly dim prospects of ending Republican control of the House of Delegates, even as they're waging a last-ditch legal effort. The General Assembly reconvenes on Wednesday, and whichever party holds more seats in the House that day will choose a speaker and set rules for running the chamber.

**Blue states eye 'political gift' in tax workaround fight with Trump**

**Jimmy Vielkind et al., Politico**

The new tax law's repeal of the state and local deduction may pose a fiscal threat to high-tax states and their affluent taxpayers. But it's also a political gift to Democratic officials in those states seeking to raise their national profiles by challenging President Donald Trump and circumventing the law.

**The maker of Oxycontin likes Rick Scott's plan to limit opioids. So why don't others?**

**Lawrence Mower, Miami Herald**

Gov. Rick Scott is pushing legislation that would be a modest step toward combating the state's growing opioid crisis. But it's placing the former healthcare company CEO in an unusual spot: He's at odds with doctors, drug companies and some fellow Republicans, who fear losing control or profits from Scott's legislation.

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**Advocacy**

### **Koch-backed groups urge Congress to pass right-to-try legislation**

**Erin Mershon, Stat News**

Several deep-pocketed political advocacy groups founded by Charles and David Koch are ramping up their advocacy before Congress on a niche issue: access to experimental drugs. On Monday, several Koch-backed groups, including Freedom Partners and Americans for Prosperity, launched an ad campaign urging Congress to pass so-called "right-to-try" legislation, which aims to help terminally ill patients access experimental treatments that haven't yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

### **Strong Economies Lift Presidents. Trump Seems an Exception.**

**Nate Cohn, The New York Times**

The stock market has surged. Unemployment is at 4.1 percent.

### **Will Trump Punish the Farm Belt?**

**The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

The U.S. economy is starting to grow at a faster pace, and deregulation and tax reform are pointing to an investment boost in 2018. But the big economic policy question now is whether President Trump is going to dampen this new growth enthusiasm by imposing tariffs and kicking off a global trade war.

### **A Counterproductive Approach to a Broken Immigration System**

**Michael Shifter and Ben Raderstorf, The New York Times**

The decision by the Department of Homeland Security not to renew Temporary Protected Status, for almost 200,000 migrants from El Salvador is President Trump's latest attempt to restrict both legal and



illegal immigration. This comes on the heels of the same rulings last year regarding Haitians and Nicaraguans.

**It's on Republicans to stop a shutdown**  
**Bernie Sanders, The Washington Post**

I do not know why President Trump and the Republican Party - which controls the White House, the Senate and the House - are so willing to shut down the government. Maybe they think it will be good for them politically.

---

## **Research Reports and Polling**

**The Working Class and the Federal Government's Social Safety Net**

**Angela Rachidi, American Enterprise Institute**

The 2016 presidential election raised questions about who makes up the "working class" and what motivates them. The Great Recession exposed considerable economic vulnerability among this group of Americans, perhaps leading to the current wave of economic populism and a certain level of distrust for the federal government.



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Events Manager

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Our friends at Americans For Prosperity, Ohio asked us to help them promote an upcoming event where Heartland's Lennie Jarrett will be speaking on education.

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--Nikki

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Hi Fellow Patriot!

Do you believe that all Ohio children deserve opportunity, choice and freedom in education?

Do you believe a child's zip code should not determine the quality of education they receive?

= 9 If so, this event is for you!

= 9

Please join AFP-Ohio for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and a timely conversation about education innovation in Ohio.

You'll hear from AFP-Ohio's Ezra Escudero and the Heartland

Institute's Lennie Jarratt about what the future holds for K-12 education in Ohio.

*This event is sponsored by America's Future Foundation, American's for Prosperity, Citizens for Community Values, and The Heartland Institute*

**REGISTER NOW!**

**WHAT: Policy Brief: K-12 Education Innovation**

**WHEN: Wed, January 24, 2018**

**5:30 PM – 7:30 PM EST**

**WHERE: The Athletic Club of Columbus**

**136 East Broad Street**

**Columbus, OH 43215**

**SIGN UP HERE**

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I hope to see you there!

For Freedom,

Kirsten R. Pomales

Field Director  
Americans for Prosperity – Ohio

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For Freedom,

Kirsten R. Pomales

Field Director

Americans for Prosperity – Ohio

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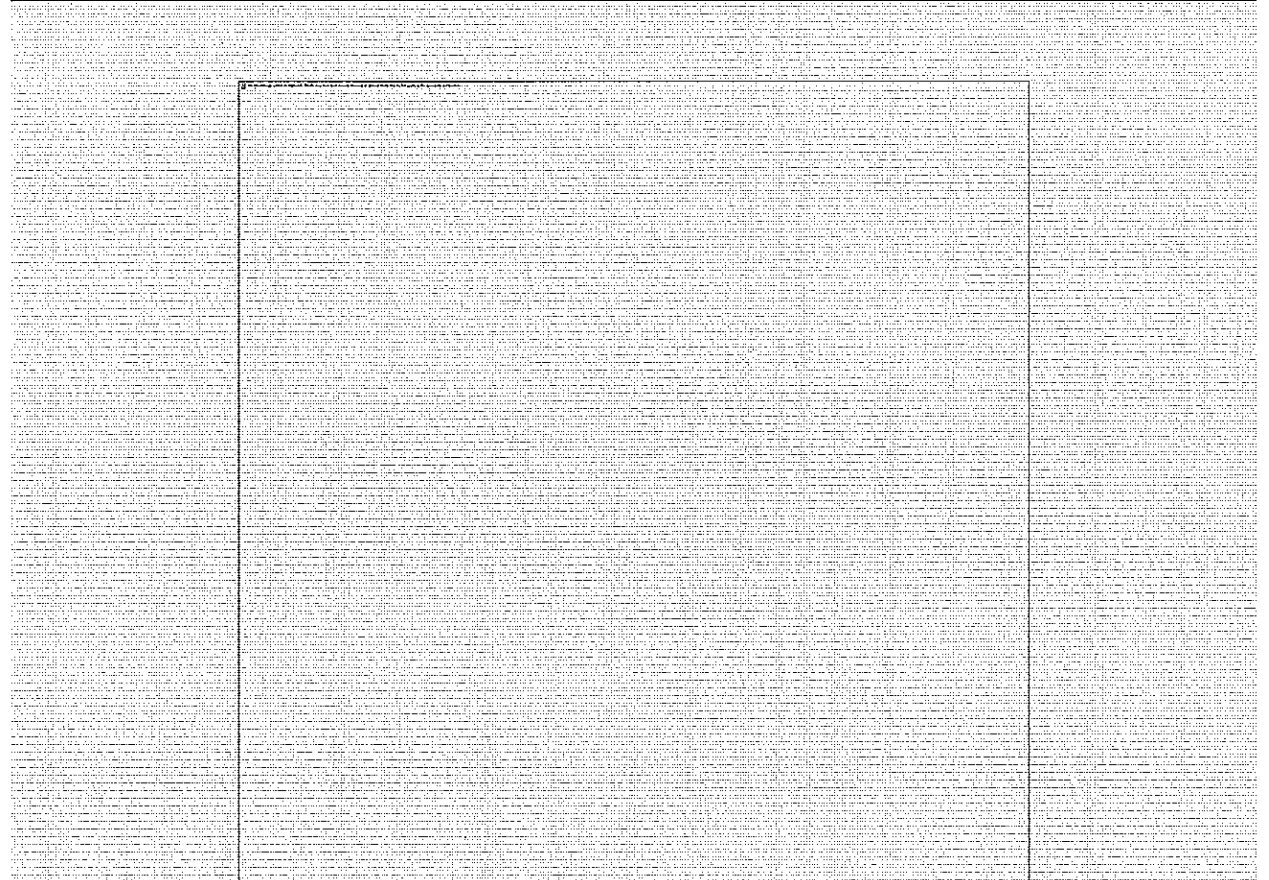
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By Eli Yokley

**Top Stories**

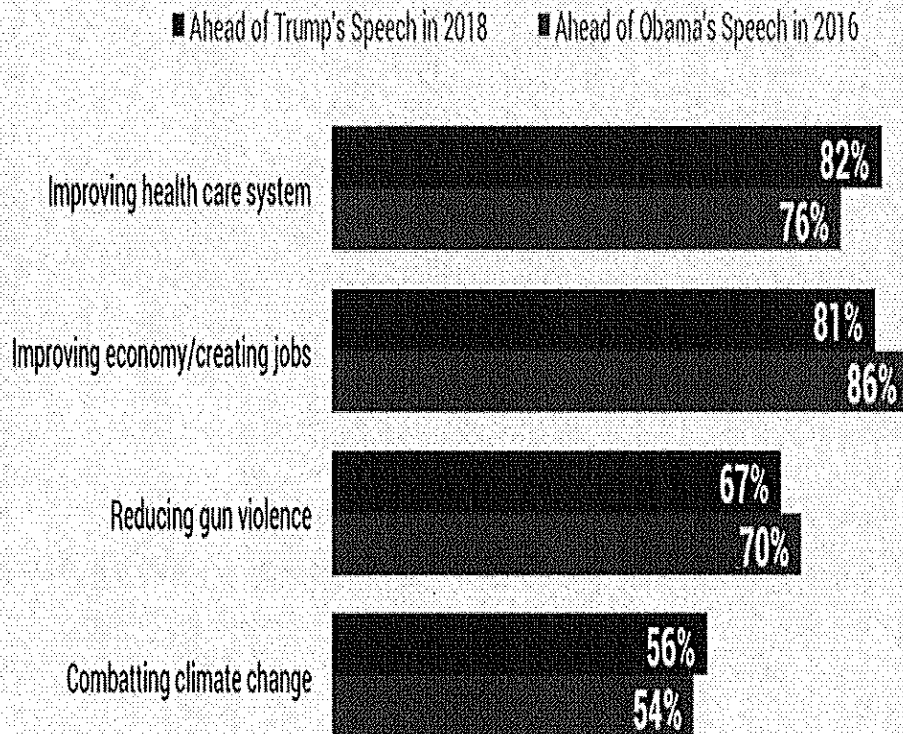
- Republican lawmakers distanced themselves from Steve Wynn following a news report that described allegations of sexual misconduct against the casino mogul. Wynn later stepped down from his post as finance chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Republicans such as House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wis.) said they would redirect his campaign contributions to charities. (The Wall Street Journal)
- Voters most want President Donald Trump to focus on improving the health care system, followed by the economy and creating jobs, when he delivers his first State of the Union address tomorrow night, according to a new poll. Eighty-two percent of registered voters said health care was very important or somewhat important for the president to discuss, up 6 percentage points since a similar survey conducted before former President Barack Obama delivered his final State of the Union address in 2016. (Morning Consult)
- The Trump administration faces a deadline today to begin imposing sanctions on entities doing business with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors, in addition to producing a list of oligarchs with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, as required by a bill Trump signed into law in August. The sanctions could be delayed or waived if the administration says Russia has made progress in cutting back its cyber-meddling. (Politico)
- House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said he does not think "there's a need for legislation right now" to protect Special Counsel Robert Mueller's job, despite a news report that Trump tried to fire him in June. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who has drafted one of two bipartisan bills that would protect Mueller, said he would be "glad to pass it right now" but suggested there was no need to do so with "no evidence that Mr. Trump wants to fire Mr. Mueller now." (The New York Times)

## Chart Review

### What Voters Want to Hear from Trump's State of the Union Morning Consult

# Health Care Rises On Voter Priority List Since 2016 Address

Voters' perceived importance of select issues before SOTU addresses in 2016 vs. 2018



**MORNING CONSULT**

The 2016 poll surveyed 2,173 registered voters from Jan. 8-10, 2016. It has a MoE of +/- two percentage points. The 2018 poll surveyed 1,994 registered voters from Jan. 18-20, 2018. It has a MoE of +/- two percentage points.



## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### MONDAY

<u>Internet Education Foundation's State of the Net conference</u>	8 a.m.
<u>Brookings Institution event previewing Trump's State of the Union address</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Washington Post event previewing Trump's State of the Union address</u>	2:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY

<u>Sen. Murray, Rep. Foxx participate in Council for Higher Education Accreditation conference</u>	7:30 a.m.
<u>Sen. Shaheen, Rep. Luetkemeyer participate in Bipartisan Policy Center event financial system</u>	9 a.m.
<u>House Energy &amp; Commerce subcommittee hearing on broadband infrastructure</u>	10 a.m.
<u>CBO director testifies before House Budget Committee</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Treasury's Mnuchin testifies at Senate Banking Committee hearing</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Korean Peninsula and U.S. strategy</u>	10 a.m.
<u>EPA's Pruitt testifies at Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Senate HELP Committee hearing on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act</u>	10 a.m.

House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on how human traffickers use U.S. financial markets

2 p.m.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the economic relationship between the U.S., Canada, Mexico

2:30  
p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY**

Rep. Bobby Scott participates in Council for Higher Education Accreditation conference

8:30  
a.m.

Turkish Heritage Organization event on U.S.-Turkey strategic alliance

1 p.m.

Canadian Foreign Minister Freeland participates in Council on Foreign Relations event on NAFTA

5:30  
p.m.

### **THURSDAY**

No events scheduled

### **FRIDAY**

American Enterprise Institute event on bridging the divide between education and employment

9:15  
a.m.



## **The Most Polarizing Brands in America**

From the NFL to CNN, here are the brands that divide Democrats and Republicans the most.

## **General**

### **Steve Wynn Fallout Ripples as Republicans Seek Distance** **Kristina Peterson et al., The Wall Street Journal**

Republicans on Sunday worked to distance themselves from Steve Wynn in the wake of a Wall Street Journal report of former employees describing a decadeslong pattern of sexual misconduct by the casino mogul and GOP financial bigwig. The allegations against one of Las Vegas's most powerful figures reverberated in the political world over the weekend, as Mr. Wynn stepped down from his post as Republican National Committee finance chairman.

### **Republicans Show Little Urgency on Legislation to Protect Mueller** **Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Nicholas Fandos, The New York Times**

Republican lawmakers warned President Trump on Sunday not to fire Robert S. Mueller III, but showed little sense of urgency to advance long-stalled legislation to protect the special counsel despite a report that Mr. Trump had tried to remove him last June. "I don't think there's a need for legislation right now to protect Mueller," Representative Kevin McCarthy of California, the House majority leader, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

### **Lawmakers call on Trump to drop bid for legal immigration cuts** **David Nakamura, The Washington Post**

Lawmakers in both parties said Sunday that the immigration debate should focus narrowly on efforts to legalize young immigrants known as "dreamers" and beef up border security, suggesting that President Trump's demands to slash legal immigration levels are likely to sink a deal. Democrats have voiced fierce opposition to a White House plan, released late last week, that featured a path to citizenship for 1.8 million

dreamers in exchange for \$25 billion for his border wall and sharp cuts to family immigration visas.

### **All Signs Point to Big Democratic Wins in 2018** **Greg Giroux, Bloomberg**

History, demographics and the national mood are pointing to one conclusion about the 2018 congressional races: Democrats are well-positioned to bring one-party government in Washington under Donald Trump's presidency to a screeching halt. There's a confluence of evidence indicating a so-called wave election may be building that would allow Democrats to wrest the House of Representatives from Republican control.

### **Hillary Clinton Let Him Stay. Women Say His Harassment Continued.** **Ruby Cramer, BuzzFeed News**

In 2007, while working for the candidate who hoped to be the first female president, a young woman filed a complaint against her boss - the campaign's faith adviser. She described "five kisses on the head" and "excessive tracking" of her whereabouts, among other complaints of harassment, according to campaign documents from the time.

### **The Plot Against America** **Franklin Foer, The Atlantic**

The clinic permitted Paul Manafort one 10-minute call each day. And each day, he would use it to ring his wife from Arizona, his voice often soaked in tears.

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## **Presidential**

### **What Voters Want to Hear from Trump's State of the Union** **Eli Yokley, Morning Consult**

Voters most want President Donald Trump to focus on improving the health care system, economy and creating jobs during his first State of the Union address Tuesday night, according to a new Morning Consult/Politico poll. The survey of 1,994 registered voters from Jan. 18-20 found 82 percent said health care was very important or somewhat important for the president to discuss.

**Trump to Test His Base With Bipartisan Call in State of the Union**  
**Justin Sink et al., Bloomberg**

Donald Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday will be one of the president's last, best chances to win over more of the American public to his nationalist agenda ahead of midterm elections that will be a referendum on his tumultuous administration. White House officials say the president will dial back his signature combative posture and instead frame his policy proposals - from immigration to infrastructure - as areas where Democrats and Republicans can work together.

**Deadline looms for Trump and Russia sanctions**  
**Elana Schor, Politico**

President Donald Trump's willingness to crack down on Russia will be seriously tested come Monday. Trump faces a major deadline to use the Russia sanctions power that Congress overwhelmingly voted to give him - and it's anybody's guess as to whether he'll comply on time after missing the last deadline.

**Trump sought release of classified Russia memo, putting him at odds with Justice Department**  
**Ashley Parker et al., The Washington Post**

On Wednesday, as Republicans were clamoring to make public a secret document they think will undercut the investigation into Russian meddling, President Trump made clear his desire: Release the memo. Trump's directive was at odds with his own Justice Department, which had warned that releasing the classified memo written by congressional

Republicans would be "extraordinarily reckless" without an official review.

### **Trump Pick for Chile Ambassador Entwined in Kushner Family Deals**

**Caleb Melby et al., Bloomberg**

When the White House nominated a new ambassador to Chile this month, it touted his role running his father's food-importing business. Not mentioned: his deep financial ties to the family of Jared Kushner.

### **Pence to headline Trump hotel dinner to raise money for GOP candidates**

**Alex Isenstadt, Politico**

Vice President Mike Pence, looking to buttress his party ahead of what is shaping up to be a difficult midterm election season, will headline a high-dollar fundraising dinner Monday that is expected to net about \$500,000 for his leadership PAC, according to an administration official. The Great America Committee event, to be held at the Trump hotel in Washington, is expected to draw a number of congressional Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, the official said.

## **Senate**

### **Senators want Trump's State of the Union to show 'compassion' toward Dreamers**

**Seung Min Kim and Rachael Bade, Politico**

President Donald Trump's inaugural State of the Union on Tuesday could offer an opportunity for the first-term leader to unify Congress behind a plan to protect the undocumented immigrants known as Dreamers. Instead, the immigration blueprint his administration laid out days before the highly anticipated address is splintering Congress in all directions, with conservatives complaining it provides amnesty for

immigrants who lack legal status and Democrats recoiling from Trump's pitch to restrict legal, family-based immigration.

**Rubio fires chief of staff for improper relations with subordinates**

**Marc Caputo and Henry C. Jackson, Politico**

Sen. Marco Rubio has fired his chief of staff after determining he violated office policies regarding proper relations between a supervisor and subordinates. Rubio said in a statement that an investigation concluded his chief of staff Clint Reed engaged in behavior that "in my judgement amounted to threats to withhold employment benefits."

**With \$2.4 million haul, Ted Cruz challenger Beto O'Rourke has his biggest fundraising quarter yet**

**Patrick Svitek, The Texas Tribune**

U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-El Paso, says he raised more than \$2.4 million over the last three months - his biggest fundraising quarter since he launched his campaign to unseat U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. The figure was accompanied by a spike in the number of individual contributions that his campaign received - from almost 33,000 in the third quarter to over 55,000 during the most recent period, he said in an interview.

**Resolution to nudge Joe Arpaio out of the Senate race withdrawn by Arizona GOP activist**

**Dan Nowicki, The Arizona Republic**

A draft Arizona Republican Party resolution seeking to nudge former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio out of this year's GOP Senate primary was withdrawn ahead of Saturday's state party meeting. The resolution, first reported by The Arizona Republic, would have showered Arpaio with praise and "gratitude" before "respectfully" urging the Fountain Hills resident to abandon the Republican race to his rivals, U.S.



Rep. Martha McSally of Tucson and former state Sen. Kelli Ward of Lake Havasu City.

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## House

### **GOP's Gowdy says he supports Mueller '100 percent'** **Patrick Temple-West, Politico**

A Republican member of the House Intelligence Committee said Sunday he supports special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russia's potential interference in the 2016 election and the Trump campaign's contacts with Russia. Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Rep. Trey Gowdy said he supports Mueller "100 percent."

### **Secret Memo Hints at a New Republican Target: Rod Rosenstein** **Nicholas Fandos et al., The New York Times**

A secret, highly contentious Republican memo reveals that Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein approved an application to extend surveillance of a former Trump campaign associate shortly after taking office last spring, according to three people familiar with it. The renewal shows that the Justice Department under President Trump saw reason to believe that the associate, Carter Page, was acting as a Russian agent.

### **Pureval tells donors he intends to run for Chabot's seat this fall** **Chris Wetterich, Cincinnati Business Courier**

National Democrats probably have landed a big Cincinnati recruit in their quest to take back the U.S. House this year. Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Aftab Pureval requested donors support him if he runs for U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot's, R-Westwood, seat in November and told them he intends to jump in the race.

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## **States**

### **Attorney General Lori Swanson running for re-election, not governor**

**J. Patrick Coolican, Star Tribune**

Attorney General Lori Swanson told supporters Sunday that she is running for re-election, ending months of speculation that she would enter the race for governor. The third-term DFL attorney general had been considered a top contender for her party's nomination for governor.

### **New York, New Jersey, Connecticut unite to sue government over SALT deduction limit**

**Joseph Lawler, Washington Examiner**

Three blue-state governors in the Northeast announced Friday that they are banding together to sue the federal government over the Republican-passed tax law that limits the deductibility of state and local taxes. "New Yorkers will not stand idly by as the federal government fires an economic missile at the fiscal health of our state," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in announcing the coalition. New Jersey and Connecticut are the other two states.

### **N.Y. Governor's Protest of Federal Tax Law Faces Some Resistance Upstate**

**Mike Vilensky, The Wall Street Journal**

How will the politics of the new federal tax law play out in high-tax states? It depends where you live.

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## **Advocacy**

### **Koch Groups Move On From Health-Care Fight**

**Julie Bykowicz, The Wall Street Journal**

The billionaire Koch brothers' political organization spent more than \$200 million in the past decade on what official Tim Phillips calls "without question our biggest policy defeat," the quest to kill the Affordable Care Act. Now, the network of donors is turning its attention to the more urgent matter of protecting Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress this fall.

**Koch network gears up for the next Supreme Court vacancy**  
**Michelle Ye Hee Lee, The Washington Post**

The Koch network is expanding its portfolio into the judicial branch. Americans for Prosperity, the main political arm of the influential network led by billionaire industrialist Charles Koch, announced Sunday that it has hired Sarah Field, former director of state court strategy for the Federalist Society, as vice president of judicial strategy.

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

**Trump's Call to End Family Migration and the Impact on Families of Color**  
**Sameera Hafiz, Morning Consult**

President Donald Trump, along with conservative politicians and groups with deep racist roots, has reignited attacking families through the current Dream Act negotiations and are likely to continue during this week's State of the Union address. Despite publicly espousing family values, they are now calling for an end to family migration, which allows hundreds of thousands of people to be reunited with their families.

**Without immigration, America will stagnate**  
**Fred Hiatt, The Washington Post**

Message to Republicans: You can be pro-growth. You can be anti-immigration. But, honestly, you can't be both.

**Fusion's Russian Dirty Work**  
**The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

Media defenders of Fusion GPS and the FBI are criticizing as friends of the Kremlin anyone who dares raise questions about their behavior during the 2016 campaign. You almost have to admire their loyalty to sources, if not to readers.

**The Gathering Threat to Abortion Rights**  
**The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

People who care about basic American freedoms should be grateful to the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, for one thing: He has given liberals another good reason to flock to the polls in November. Mr. McConnell is set to hold a procedural vote this week on a bill that would ban abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy.

**Trump abuses show we must turn traditions into laws**  
**Preet Bharara and Christine Todd Whitman, USA Today**

One year into the Trump presidency, it's clear that the norms and boundaries traditionally guiding American political behavior have deeply eroded. That matters greatly. A workable democracy can thrive only when there are basic rules, often unwritten, that curb abuse and guide policymakers.

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## **Research Reports and Polling**

**Poll: Millennials say the country is on the wrong track, but they're not**  
**Stephanie Perry and Andrew Arengue, NBC News**

Millennials think things in the country are off on the wrong track but at the same time, they're optimistic about their own futures, according to a

new NBC News/GenForward survey. Nearly two-thirds of millennials (63 percent) think things in this country are off on the wrong track.

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This email was sent by: Morning Consult  
PO Box 27068 Washington, DC, 20038, US

[Manage your email preferences](#)

**SUBSCRIBE**

**From:** Katie McAuliffe - Digital Liberty  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2018 11:25 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Oppose Ohio "Net Neutrality" Legislation- Support Title II Repeal

February 1, 2018



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## Combat Confusion - Title II Repeal Resource

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I understand there may be consideration of some kind of "net neutrality" style legislation in Ohio. **We ask that you oppose any so-called net neutrality legislation.** In the following sections, we have included information as to why these types of bills will be harmful for your state.

In this email you will find:

- **State Bills lead to a segregated internet**
- Answers to questions about **why the FCC repealed Title II** regulation of the Internet and what that means
- **Support for the FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom Order** from outside groups with links, including this [coalition letter](#) to Senators and Representatives.

I hope you find this helpful.

Regards,

Katie McAuliffe  
Executive Director, Digital Liberty  
Federal Affairs Manager, Americans for Tax Reform  
(o) 202-785-0266  
kmcauliffe@atr.org

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## Prevent a Segregated Internet

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State legislation is not needed to solve a perceived problem. **Legislation will create an internet segregated at state borders**, and only lead to costly litigation because the internet is inherently interstate commerce.

While legislation intends to protect consumers from blocking and throttling, it creates a larger problem. Having a patchwork of different state laws that apply to the infrastructure that we communicate and do business over, **creates a divided internet where traffic will actually end up treated unequally.**

Since these types of laws have the unintended consequence of disrupting commerce between the states, states passing any version of **net neutrality or Title II laws will face lawsuits costing taxpayers millions.**

Further, these types of **laws will discourage investment in your states internet infrastructure**, slowing the deployment of not only new wired connections and network upgrades, but also 5G deployment.

**To prevent a segregated internet, the best federal Open Internet legislation would:**

- Give authority to the Federal Trade Commission
- And encompass the following principles:
  - Internet experiences— including content, technology, information, and delivery— should be consumer-driven not government-driven.
  - The role of state and federal governments is to deter fraud, enforce contracts, and arbitrate disputes.
  - Clear, consistent, and limited government maximizes innovation and competition.
  - Reliable internet access encourages and accelerates economic growth and development.

**Title II did not achieve the purported goals:**

- No blocking, No throttling, No paid prioritization
- The D.C. Circuit Court said that the Title II internet order allowed ISPs to offer filtered Internet access,

**There is a federal bill, The Open Internet Preservation Act**

- That includes no blocking and no throttling for anti-competitive non-network management purposes

- Transparency requirements
- Gives FCC limited authority
- This bill is okay, but a better bill would place this authority with the Federal Trade Commission
  - uses a case-by-case approach established in precedent rather than a prescriptive regulations that cannot adapt to future technologies
  - considers the full internet ecosystem

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## Q&A

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**Q: Why is the FCC killing the Internet?**

**A: This is the same constantly improving and innovating Internet. Nothing died.**

- The FCC reinstituted the framework signed into law by Bill Clinton
- We have had 20 years of explosive internet innovation under that framework
- Title II would have put the Internet under utility style laws like the electric grid
  - Utility laws stifle innovation
  - Utility laws are one of the reasons we don't have a smart grid, but we do have smart phones!

**Q: Are ISPs going to start charging customers for filtered Internet access?**

**A: Title II did not stop ISPs from "filtering" Internet access**

- The D.C. Circuit Court said that Title II allows ISPs to offer filtered Internet access, & also said that none were doing so because of fear of subscriber losses. Market forces, not the Title II rules, are regulating this conduct.
  - Some people will never accept market forces as a solution, either for broadband or otherwise... Good thing there are and have always been consumer protections at the Federal Trade Commission (keep reading).

**Q: What if my ISP tries to block content of a competitor?**

**A: If an ISP were to advantage its own content over a competitor:**

- that would be in violation of competition, anti-trust, or deceptive practice standards. Enforceable by State Attorneys Generals and/or the Federal Trade Commission
  - state consumer protection laws will apply and state attorneys general can bring actions against ISPs



- federal antitrust law will protect against discriminatory conduct by ISPs. As a former Obama Administration FTC Chairman recently said, this is a "formidable hammer against anyone who would harmfully block, throttle or prioritize traffic."
- The Federal Trade is able to police ISPs that engage in unfair and deceptive practices through its consumer protection authority
  - When the FCC classified broadband as a Title II service in 2015, it divested the Federal Trade Commission of 100% of its consumer protection authority over ISPs, including its ability to police ISPs that engage in unfair or deceptive practices. Repealing Title II will restore those important protections for Internet openness.

**Q: What about my data privacy?**

**A: Consumers have regained strong online privacy protections from the Federal Trade Commission.**

- Before the FCC stripped it of jurisdiction, the FTC—the nation's most experienced privacy enforcement agency—brought over 500 privacy enforcement actions, including against ISPs. By reversing Title II, consumers get those privacy protections back.

**Q: Will ISPs start censoring content?**

**A: Your ISP has not and will not censor content**

- **Content censorship is more likely to come from:**
- Governments - think Arab Spring and short term internet shut downs during that time, or general political censorship in China (more on government censorship below)
  - Platforms that moderate what users post based on policies, terms, and agreements for using the platform, app or service.
  - Also, slower loading pages are more likely caused by the number of advertisements, images, or videos loading in side bars
- **Governments Censor & Title II gave the Government more control over the Internet Infrastructure**
  - Outside of the US, there were 81 short-term internet shutdowns that occurred in 19 countries between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016
  - During that time: India lost \$968 million from internet shutdowns, Saudi Arabia lost \$465 million, Morocco lost \$320 million, Iraq lost \$209 million, Brazil lost \$116 million, and the Republic of the Congo lost \$72 million
  - Governments are willing to take financial hits to maintain power, especially when they can always raise more money from taxpayers
  - Companies want to make money
    - they may experiment with new business models, but if consumers don't like it, they quickly stop
    - Blocking or filtering content will cause them to lose subscribers.

**Q: If Title II didn't prevent blocking or filtering, and there were already protections at the FTC, then why did the FCC pass new "net neutrality" rules?**

**A: The FCC wanted to expand its own jurisdiction.**

- With most communications moving online, the FCC is becoming increasingly obsolete. The only real way to ensure its future existence (and power) was to expand its jurisdiction.
- The 1996 Telecommunications Act did not give the FCC authority over the internet
- The FCC did some creative interpreting of the law to expand its own jurisdiction into an area already covered by another agency, the FTC
- We don't need duplicative regulation and authorities - that's costly to innovation and to taxpayers
- The FTC has authority to punish bad actors. If Congress thinks there should be additional authority, then Congress should pass legislation. The FCC and FTC are creations of Congress and should only within the bounds that Congress gave them.

**Q: What Now?**

**A: Its time for Federal Legislation**

- Anyone pushing litigation over legislation is missing the point
- "Net Neutrality" has been pinballing through the FCC and the Courts for far too long.
- The FCC lost its cases in 2010 and 2012. And don't forget that the FCC's 2015 Title II Order could still be taken up by the Supreme Court over the legal question Chevron deference - or whether courts should defer to agencies when agencies grant themselves power

**Free Market Open Internet Principles:**

- Internet experiences— including content, technology, information, and delivery— should be consumer-driven not government-driven.
- The role of state and federal governments is to deter fraud, enforce contracts, and arbitrate disputes.
- Clear, consistent, and limited government maximizes innovation and competition.
- Reliable internet access encourages and accelerates economic growth and development.

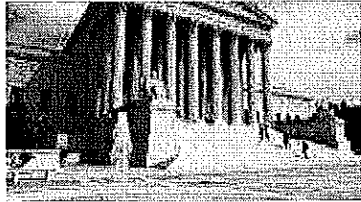
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## **Articles & Statements of Support for Title II Repeal**

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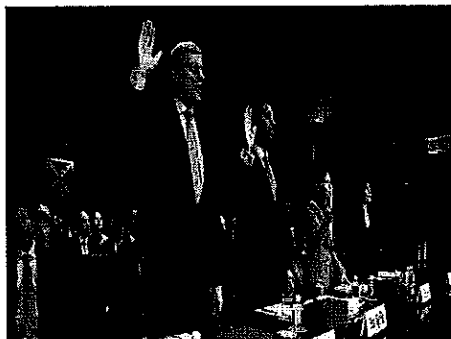


### **Coalition to Congress: Stop Democrat Efforts to Control...**

Today Americans for Tax Reform, along with a number of center-right organizations, sent a letter to members of the House and Senate opposing usage of the Congressional Review Act to overturn the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Restoring ...

[Read more](http://www.ATR.org)  
[www.ATR.org](http://www.ATR.org)

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### **Everybody Calm Down About Net Neutrality**



### **Restoring a light touch to FCC internet regulations**

Over the last two weeks, there has been a vigorous debate about internet regulation. Under the plan I recently proposed, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would restore internet freedom by rolling back heavy-handed government...

The FCC's vote this week only restores power to the Federal Trade Commission, whose record is strong.

[Read more](#)  
[www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)

[Read more](#)  
[www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com)



### **The destiny of telecom regulation is antitrust**

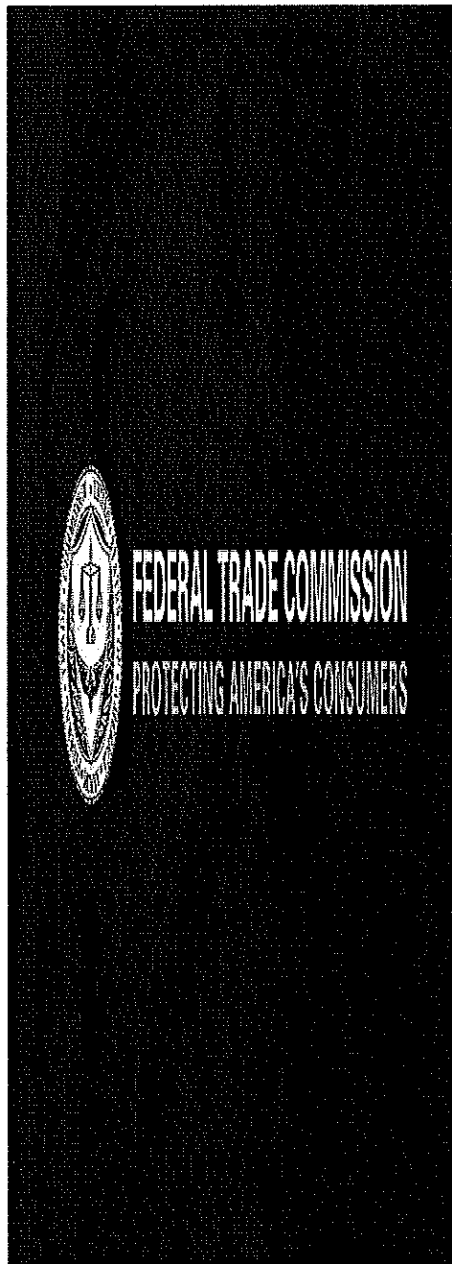
This week the FCC will vote on Chairman Ajit Pai's Restoring Internet Freedom Order. Once implemented, the Order will rescind the 2015 Open Internet Order and return antitrust and consumer protection enforcement to primacy in Internet access...

[Read more](#)  
[truthonthemarket.com](http://truthonthemarket.com)

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### **FCC votes to Restore Internet Freedom**

Americans for Tax Reform released a letter in support of S. 2222 which will expand 529 savings accounts to include apprenticeship programs. This legislation will help bring more job opportunities to young Americans. The full letter can be found...



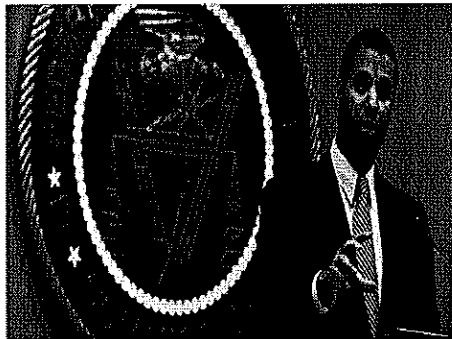
[Read more](#)  
[www.ATR.org](http://www.ATR.org)

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## **FTC, FCC Outline Agreement to Coordinate Online Consumer ...**

The Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced their intent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which the two agencies would coordinate online consumer protection efforts following the...

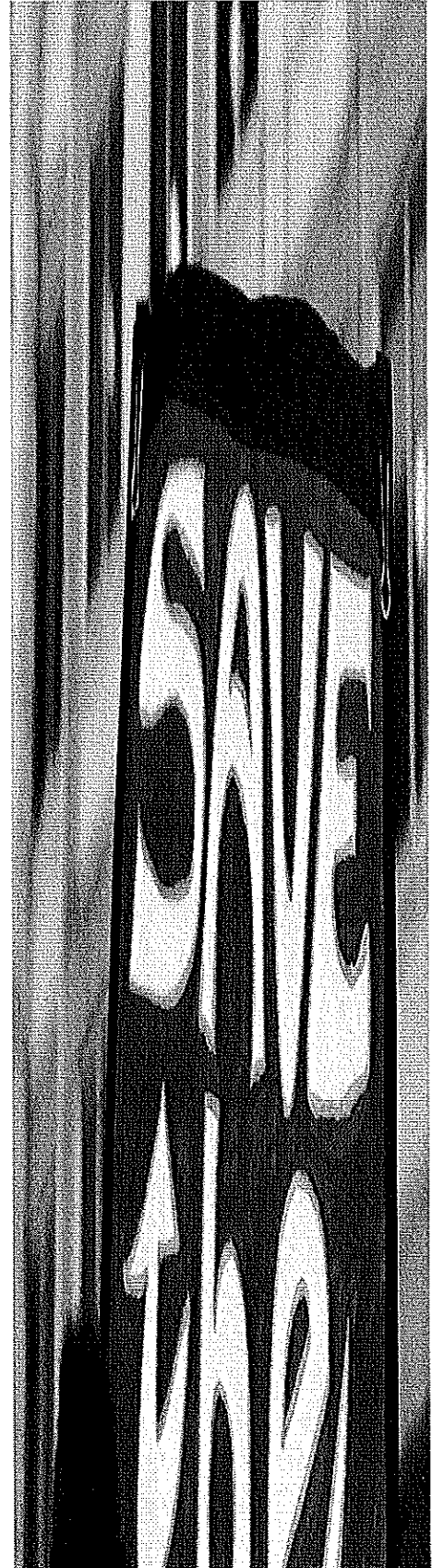
[Read more](#)  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

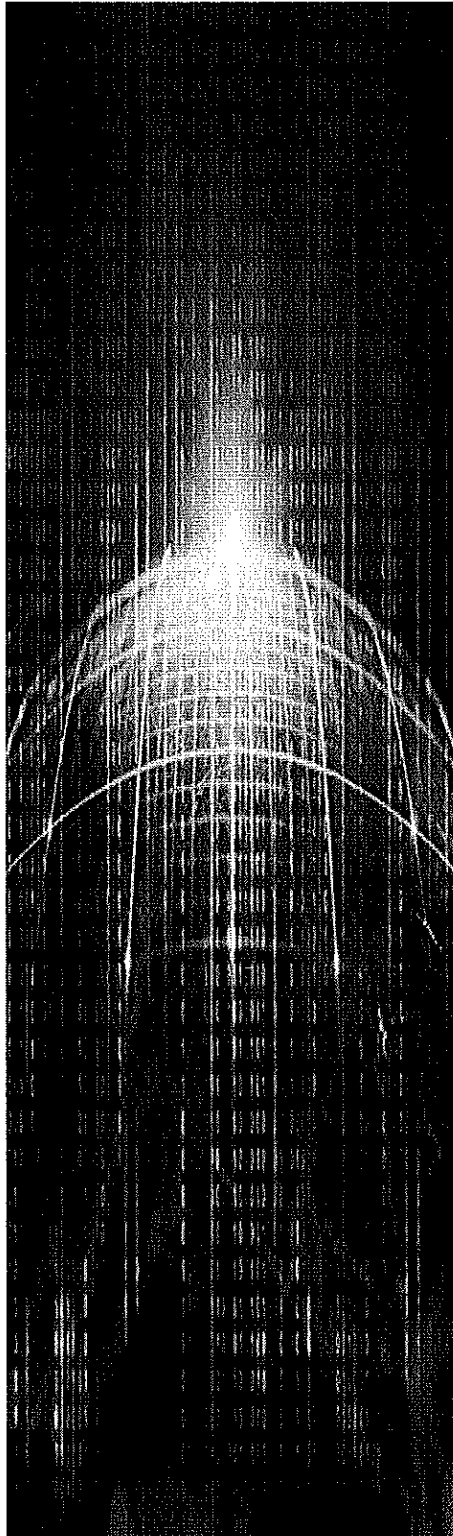


## **The Internet Is Free Again**

Killing Obama-era rules will remove the FCC as political gatekeeper.

[Read more](#)  
[www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)





## **No, the Internet is not about to be destroyed**

CLOSE Worries that web providers will ruin access are unfounded. They have every incentive to offer their customers maximum access to Internet services. The headlines regarding the Federal Communications Commission's upcoming vote on "net..."

[Read more](http://www.usatoday.com)  
[www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)

## AFP: FCC Vote to Repeal Net Neutrality Will Restore...

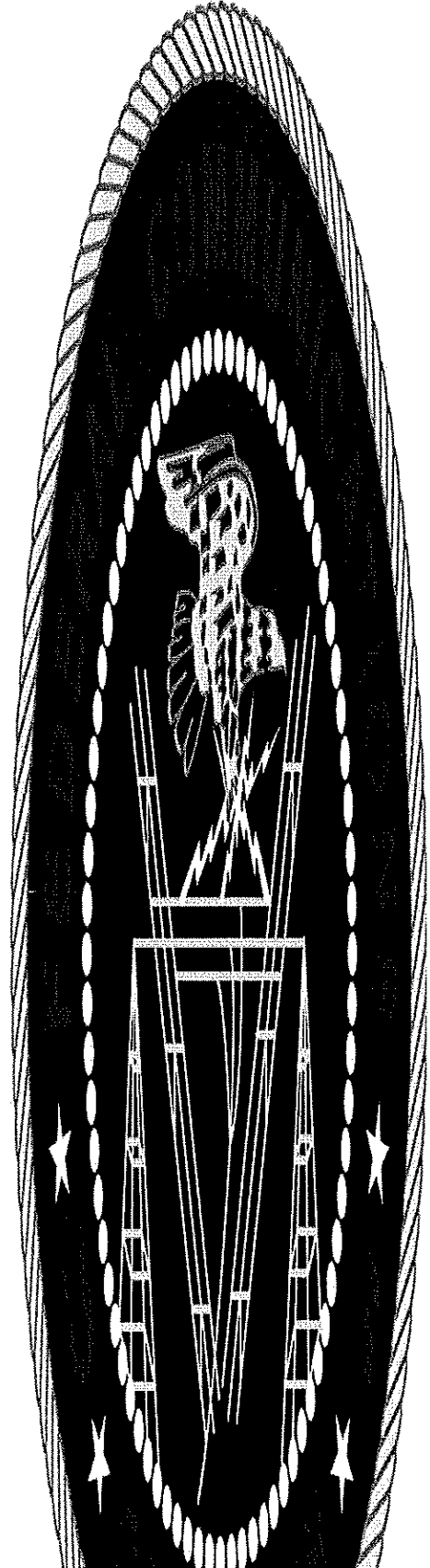
Arlington, Va. - Today, Americans for Prosperity commended the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for voting to repeal Obama-era internet regulations, which improperly classified the internet as a Title II telecommunications service under...

[Read more](#)  
[americansforprosperity.org](http://americansforprosperity.org)



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**FreedomWorks Hails the  
Passage of the Restoring**





### **Internet ...**

Today the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to enact the Restoring Internet Freedom Order, reversing regulation of Internet service providers (ISPs) under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and returning to a Title I framework ...

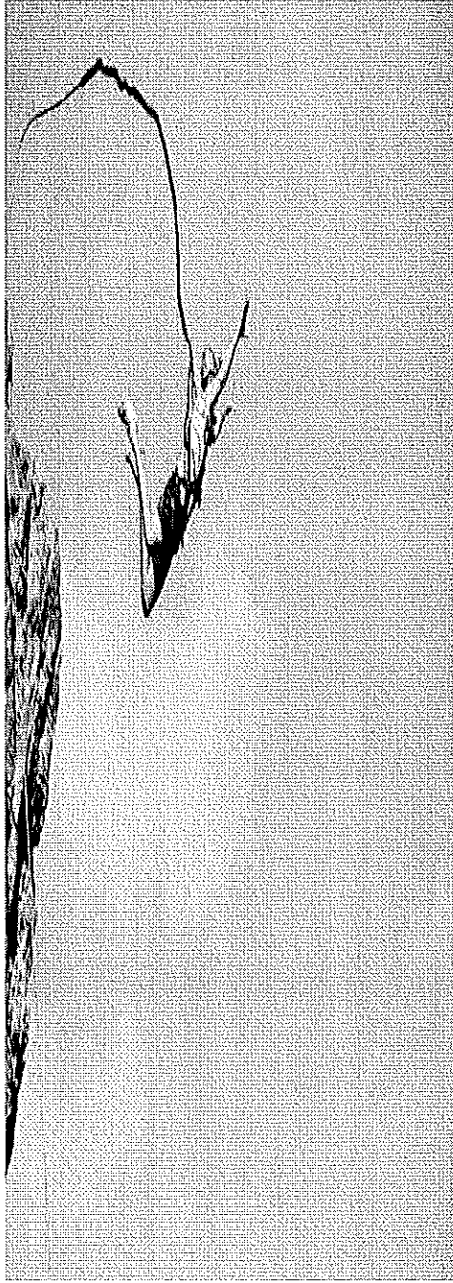
[Read more](#)  
[www.freedomworks.org](http://www.freedomworks.org)

### **FCC Votes to Put the Consumer Back in Charge of the...**

Today's vote at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) puts individual consumers back in charge of their internet experience. The vote rolled back a 2015 Order reclassifying the internet as a 1930s telecommunications utility and restored the ...

[Read more](#)  
[www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org)

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### **Dear Aunt Sadie, Please Step Back From The Net...**

In the 25 years I've been toiling in the mines of tech policy, I've developed what I call the Aunt Sadie test. Most of the issues I research and write about are woefully technical, legal, economic and boring; of interest to more and more people...

[Read more](http://www.forbes.com)  
[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)

### **The FCC Just Voted to Roll Back Obama-Era Net Neutrality ...**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted on a party line vote today to rescind the net neutrality rules passed by the agency under President Obama. Two Republican-appointed commissioners joined agency Chairman Ajit Pai in a 3-2 vote to...

[Read more](http://reason.com)  
[reason.com](http://reason.com)

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**Global economy loses  
billions from internet**

### **The FCC's defining case for repealing internet regulations**

The expected blizzard of social media and online commentary has followed the FCC's announced proposal to repeal public utility regulation it imposed on broadband Internet access back in 2015. Yet much of the online chatter ignores the legal issue

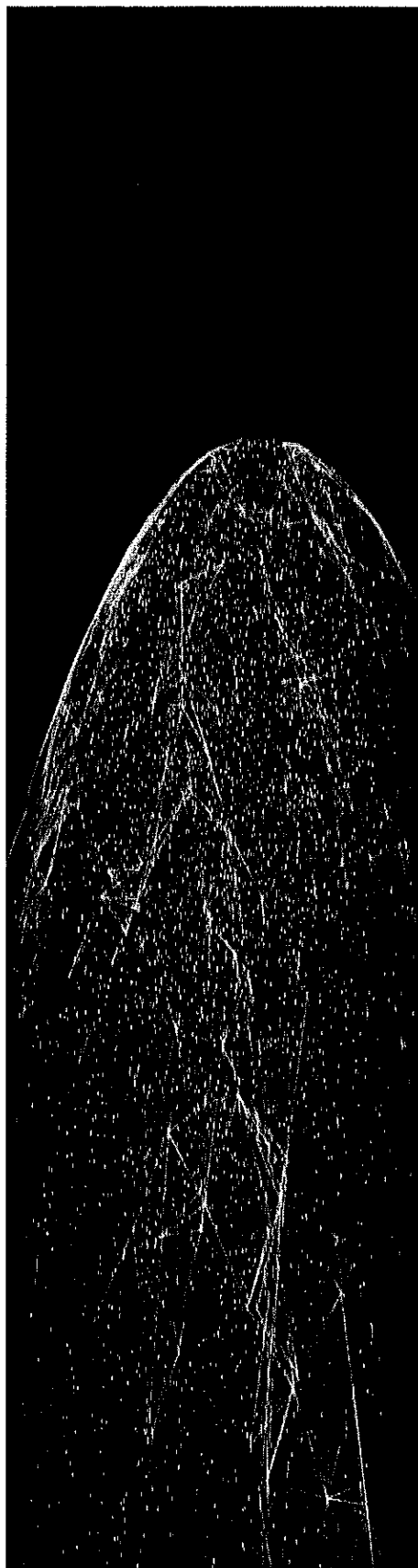
...

[Read more](#)  
[thehill.com](http://thehill.com)

### **shutdowns**

This past June, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a non-binding resolution condemning the intentional shutdown or disruption of domestic internet access. Despite the support of many me...

[Read more](#)  
[www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)



## Debunking the Left's Myths on Net Neutrality

The end of the world is nigh. That at least is the message being spread by last-ditch defenders of the Obama-era "network neutrality" rules, which Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai has scheduled for elimination later this month. ...

[Read more](#)  
[www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)

## CEI Responds to FCC Repeal of Net Neutrality Regulations

Competitive Enterprise Institute's Ryan Radia responded to the Federal Communications Commission's vote today to repeal net neutrality regulations: "Today's FCC vote to restore Internet freedom is a victory for consumers. Building the networks of ...

[Read more](#)  
[cei.org](http://cei.org)

## ACU Praises FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's Unwavering Resolve...

WASHINGTON DC - The American Conservative Union (ACU) applauds Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai for his decision to end Obama-era regulations imposed on the internet and restore internet freedom. Chairman Pai has faced a...

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## Digital Liberty

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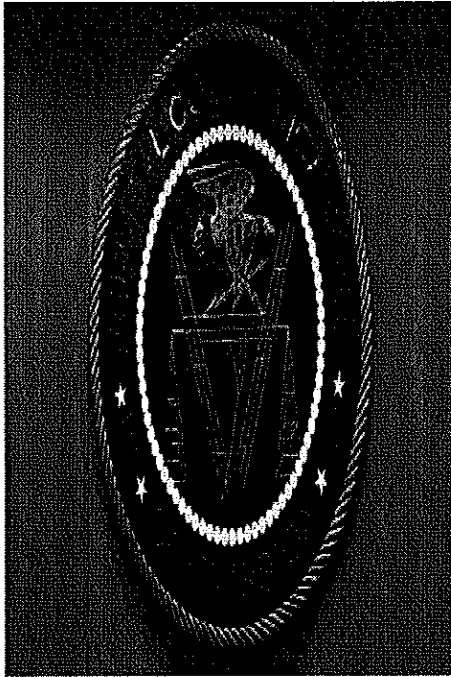
### Internet Freedom Survives Cyber Bullies | Digital Liberty

Digital Liberty advocates for a consumer-driven market free from heavy regulation or taxation of the Internet, technology, telecommunications, video games, and media. We believe that free markets and consumer choice - not bureaucrats - should...

[Read more](#)  
[www.digitalliberty.net](http://www.digitalliberty.net)

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[Read more](#)  
[conservative.org](http://conservative.org)



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### **On net neutrality and the competition solution: a Q&A - AEI**

Given the FCC's regulatory rollback decision on net neutrality, I thought it might be a good time to re-up some of my podcast interview with Brent Skorup, a research fellow in the technology policy program at the Mercatus Center at George Mason...





[Read more](#)  
[www.aei.org](http://www.aei.org)

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### **Citizens Against Government Waste Cheers FCC's...**

For Immediate Release Contact: Curtis Kalin 202-467-5318 December 14, 2017 (Washington, D.C.) - Today, Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) President Tom Schatz released a statement following the approval of the landmark Restoring Internet...

[Read more](#)  
[www.cagw.org](http://www.cagw.org)

Katie McAuliffe | Americans for Tax Reform | 202-785-0266 | [kmcauliffe@atr.org](mailto:kmcauliffe@atr.org) | [www.atr.org](http://www.atr.org)

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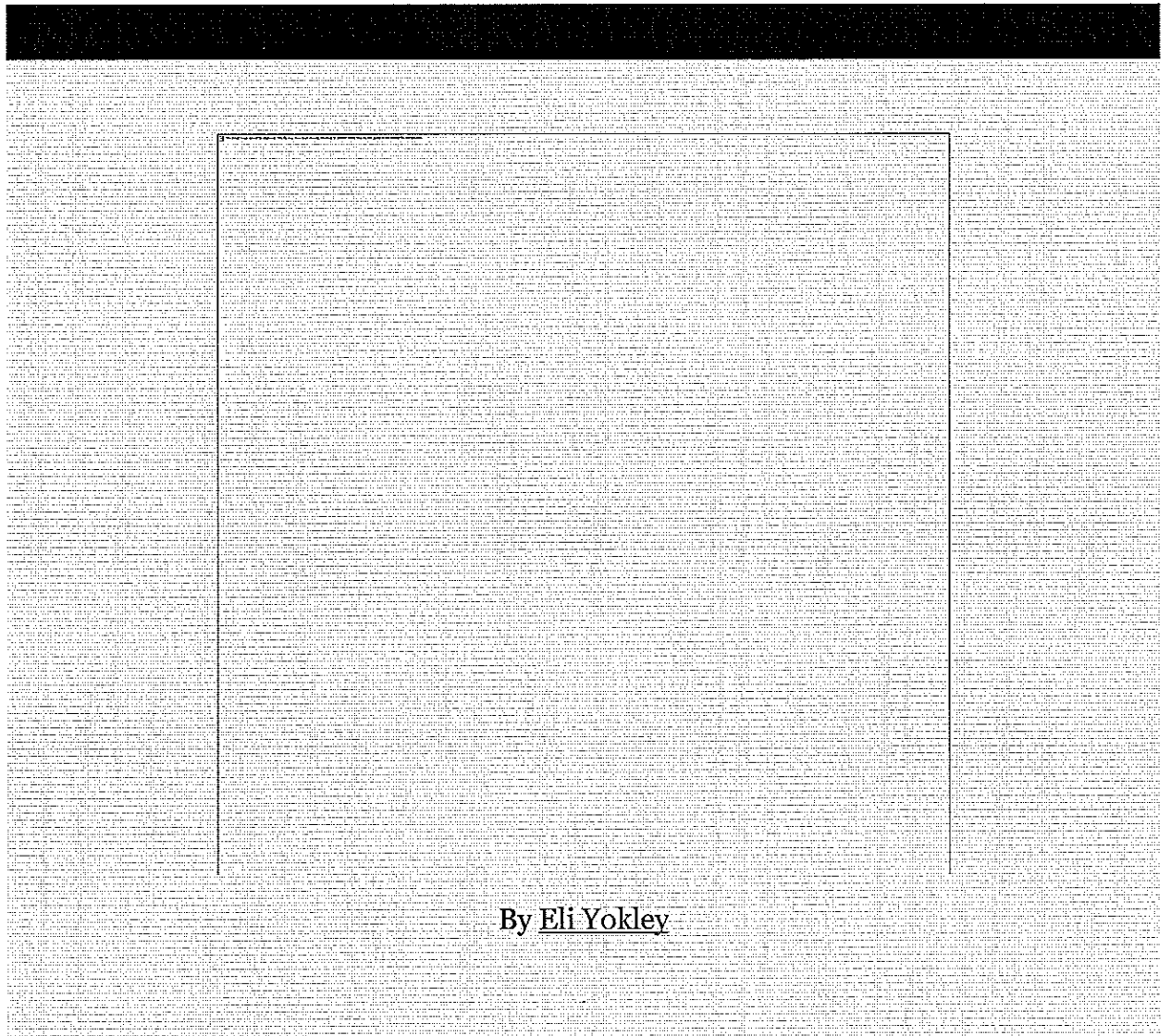
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**From:** Morning Consult  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:05 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Washington, Presented by CVS Health: Trump Ousts Tillerson as Secretary of State, Replaces Him With CIA's Pompeo  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

## Top Stories

- President Donald Trump has ousted Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and chosen Mike Pompeo, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to replace him. Trump, who has long clashed with Tillerson, asked him to step aside last Friday. ([The Washington Post](#))
- Republican members of the House Intelligence Committee said their investigation found no evidence of collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia to sway the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The announcement brought an abrupt close to one of two remaining probes into the issue on Capitol Hill, and it elicited sharp objections from committee Democrats, who have warned Republicans not to end their investigation before special counsel Robert Mueller is finished with his. ([The New York Times](#))
- Trump blocked Broadcom Ltd., a Singapore-based company, from its hostile takeover of U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc., signaling that any deal that could give China an advantage in critical technology will be blocked in the name of national security. China loomed large over the U.S. government's fears about a foreign takeover of Qualcomm, and Trump's executive order regarding the matter said there is "credible evidence" that led him to believe Broadcom, by acquiring Qualcomm, "might take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States." ([Bloomberg](#))
- A special election is being held today in Pennsylvania's 18th District, where state Rep. Rick Saccone (R) is facing off against former federal prosecutor Conor Lamb (D) for the seat vacated last year by Rep. Tim Murphy (R). Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, campaigned with Saccone on Monday as polling data showed momentum shifting in favor of Lamb in the district, which

has sent a Republican to Congress since it first elected Murphy in 2002. (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

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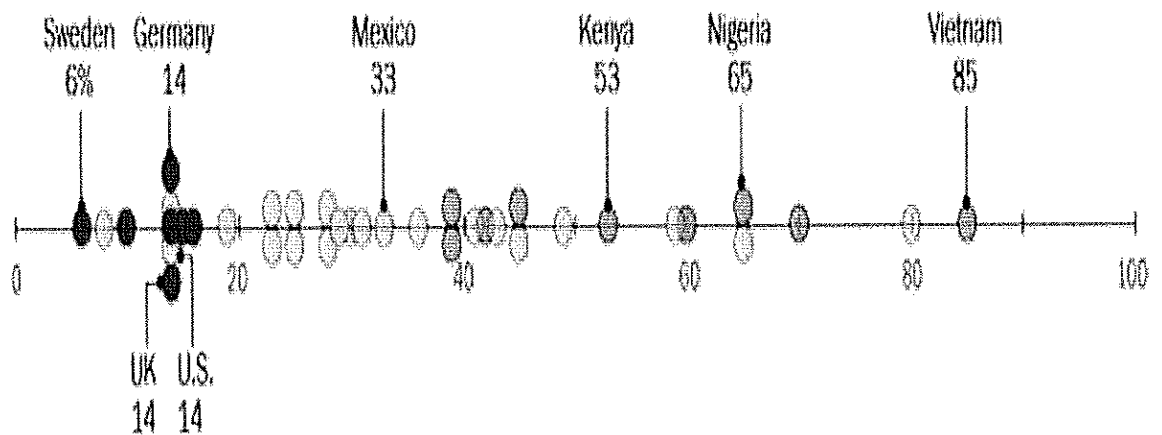
## Chart Review

**People in less democratic countries are more likely to say China and Russia respect personal freedoms**  
**Pew Research Center**

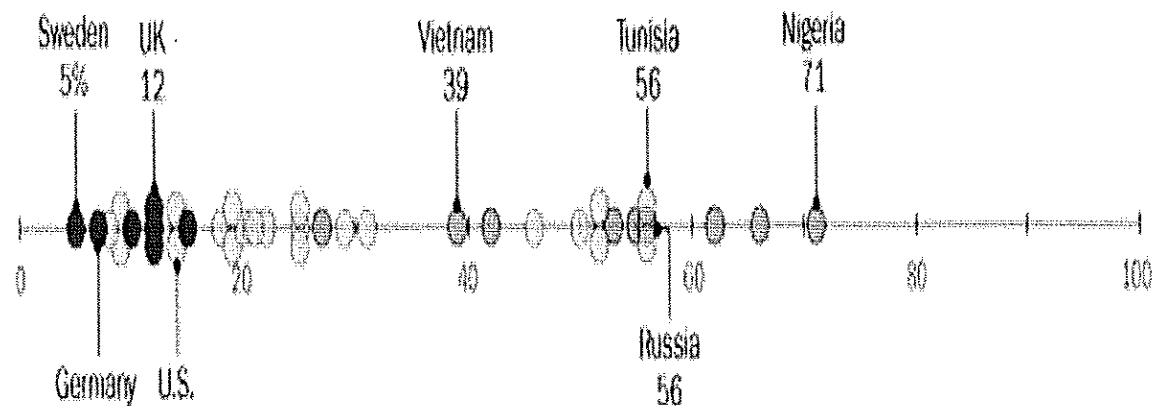
## Ratings for Russian and Chinese respect for personal freedoms vary by regime type

*The government of Russia respects the personal freedoms of its people*

- Full democracy
- Flawed democracy
- Authoritarian or hybrid regime



*The government of China respects the personal freedoms of its people*



## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### TUESDAY

<u>Brookings Institution event on a war on the Korean Peninsula</u>	9 a.m.
<u>New America event on self-driving cars</u>	11:30 a.m.
<u>Hudson Institute event on Syria</u>	12 p.m.
<u>Sen. Lee participates in AEI event on the opioid crisis</u>	2 p.m.
<u>Wilson Center event on Russian President Vladimir Putin</u>	2:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

<u>Rep. Huizenga participates in Networks Financial Institute's insurance public policy summit</u>	8 a.m.
<u>Rep. Moulton participates in AEI event on Russian President Vladimir Putin</u>	9 a.m.
<u>Rep. Castro participates in Center for American Progress event on U.S.-Japan cooperation</u>	9:15 a.m.
<u>Defense One event on the future of military communication</u>	5:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY

<u>Politico Playbook interview with Bill Gates</u>	8 a.m.
<u>Sens. Ernst, Peters participate in Defense One event</u>	8 a.m.

DOT's Chao testifies before House Appropriations subcommittee 9:30 a.m.

DOE's Perry testifies before House Appropriations subcommittee 10 a.m.

DOI's Zinke testifies before House Natural Resources subcommittee 10 a.m.

HHS's Azar testifies before House Appropriations subcommittee 10 a.m.

VA's Shulkin testifies before House Appropriations subcommittee 10 a.m.

Sen. Rubio participates in Heritage Foundation event on Latin America 12:15 p.m.

Sen. Klobuchar, Georgian president participate in Atlantic Council event on the U.S.-Georgia partnership 2 p.m.

IMF's Lagarde participates in Washington Post event 5:30 p.m.

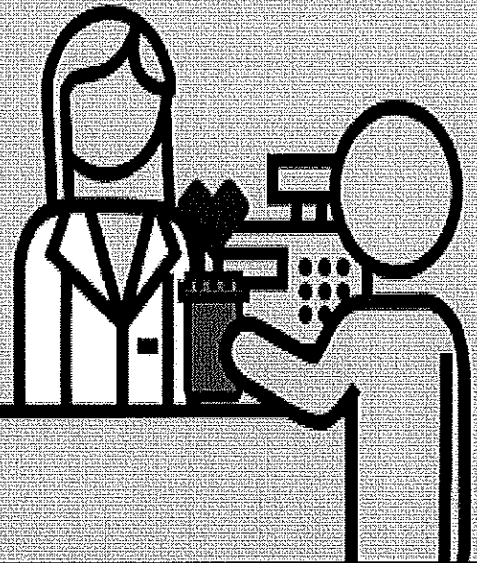
## **FRIDAY**

Brookings Institution event on infrastructure 10 a.m.

Heritage Foundation event on national security repercussions of a NAFTA withdrawal 1:30 p.m.

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**General**



**Roger Stone claimed contact with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in 2016, according to two associates**  
**Tom Hamburger et al., The Washington Post**

In the spring of 2016, longtime political operative Roger Stone had a phone conversation that would later seem prophetic, according to the person on the other end of the line. Stone, an informal adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump, said he had learned from WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange that his organization had obtained emails that would torment senior Democrats such as John Podesta, then campaign chairman for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

**Qataris opted not to give info on Kushner, secret meetings to Mueller**  
**Julia Ainsley et al., NBC News**

Qatari officials gathered evidence of what they claim is illicit influence by the United Arab Emirates on Jared Kushner and other Trump associates, including details of secret meetings, but decided not to give the information to special counsel Robert Mueller for fear of harming relations with the Trump administration, say three sources familiar with the Qatari discussions. Lebanese-American businessman George Nader and Republican donor Elliott Broidy, who participated in the meetings, have both been the focus of news reports in recent days about their connections to the UAE and Trump associates.

**Rod Rosenstein, deputy attorney general, says Robert Mueller is 'not an unguided missile'**  
**Kevin Johnson, USA Today**

Despite unrelenting criticism from the White House on the course of the investigation into Russia's election interference, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein Monday offered unqualified support for special counsel Robert Mueller. "The special counsel is not an unguided missile," Rosenstein said in an exclusive interview with USA TODAY.

**Sessions calls on U.S. attorneys to aggressively prosecute gun buyers who lie on background checks**  
**Sari Horwitz, The Washington Post**

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced Monday that U.S. attorneys will more aggressively enforce the law that makes it a crime for gun buyers to lie on their federal background checks, one of several steps Justice Department officials outlined as part of the Trump administration's response to last month's deadly school shooting in Parkland, Fla. The Justice Department also will increase the presence of law enforcement officers at schools and continue to review the way law enforcement agencies respond to tips from the public, Sessions said.

**Pentagon chief Mattis arrives in Afghanistan, discusses reconciliation with the Taliban**  
**Dan Lamothe, The Washington Post**

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis visited Afghanistan on Tuesday to meet senior U.S. and Afghan officials and discuss both the military campaign and "peeling off" some members of the Taliban to pursue a peace deal with the Afghan government. The unannounced visit comes two weeks after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani made what many observers consider an unprecedented offer, inviting the Taliban to begin peace talks without preconditions to end the 16-year war.

**Congress nears deal to crack down on sexual harassment**  
**Heather Caygle and Elana Schor, Politico**

House and Senate negotiators are nearing a deal to significantly rewrite Capitol Hill's workplace discrimination rules in the hopes of attaching it to a must-pass funding bill in the next two weeks. A sweeping overhaul of the Hill's system to address sexual harassment and other workplace misconduct passed the House easily early last month and would serve as the baseline for the proposal, according to aides briefed on the plan.

## **Presidential**

### **Trump ousts Tillerson, will replace him as secretary of state with CIA chief Pompeo**

**Ashley Parker and Philip Rucker, The Washington Post**

President Trump has ousted Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and replaced him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo, orchestrating a major change to his national security team amid delicate negotiations with North Korea, White House officials said Tuesday. Trump last Friday asked Tillerson to step aside, and the embattled top diplomat cut short his trip to Africa on Monday to return to Washington.

### **Trump's Message in Blocking Broadcom Deal: U.S. Tech 'Not for Sale'**

**David McLaughlin and Saleha Mohsin, Bloomberg**

With his swift rejection of Broadcom Ltd.'s hostile takeover of Qualcomm Inc., President Donald Trump sent a clear signal to overseas investors: Any deal that could give China an edge in critical technology will be swatted down in the name of national security. Although Broadcom is based in Singapore, China loomed large over the U.S. government's fears about a foreign takeover of chipmaker Qualcomm.

### **White House defends its walkback on gun law proposals** **Jeremy Diamond and Allie Malloy, CNN**

The White House on Monday defended its piecemeal approach to combating gun violence and insisted President Donald Trump hasn't entirely abandoned the idea of raising the minimum age for purchasing guns, hours after the President said there was "not much political support" for the initiative. "Right now, the President's primary focus is on pushing through things that we know have broad bipartisan support," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said.

**Larry Kudlow Is the New Favorite to Replace Gary Cohn**  
**Maggie Haberman and Jim Tankersley, The New York Times**

Larry Kudlow, a CNBC television commentator who has informally advised President Trump on economic issues, is currently the top contender to head the National Economic Council, according to three people close to the president. Mr. Kudlow emerged Monday as the latest favorite in a changing rotation of potential replacements for Gary D. Cohn, who said he would resign after losing a battle over the president's longstanding desire to impose large tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

**Trump Jr., donor have longtime undisclosed ties**  
**Jake Pearson, The Associated Press**

Donald Trump Jr. has a previously undisclosed business relationship with a longtime hunting buddy who helped raise millions of dollars for his father's 2016 presidential campaign and has had special access to top government officials since the election, records obtained by The Associated Press show. The president's oldest son and Texas hedge fund manager Gentry Beach have been involved in business deals together dating back to the mid-2000s and recently formed a company, Future Venture LLC, despite past claims by both men that they were just friends, according to previously unreported court records and other documents obtained by AP.

**Ivanka Trump never cut ties with the Trump Organization.**  
**That's turned into a problem.**  
**Anita Kumar, McClatchy DC**

Donald Trump isn't the only Trump with potential conflicts of interest in the White House. Ivanka Trump - a senior White House adviser who is doing everything from lobbying the Senate on tax policy to representing her father at a G20 summit of world leaders - will pull in more than \$1 million a year from the family business that has continued to develop luxury resorts across the globe during the Trump presidency.

## **The Trump Administration's Campaign to Weaken Civil Service Ramps Up at the VA** **Isaac Arnsdorf, ProPublica**

Last June, President Donald Trump fulfilled a campaign promise by signing a bipartisan bill to make it easier to fire employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The law, a rare rollback of the federal government's strict civil-service job protections, was intended as a much-needed fix for an organization widely perceived as broken.

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## **Senate**

### **Senate GOP leaders won't try to block Trump's tariffs** **Burgess Everett, Politico**

Republicans have been freaking out about President Donald Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs all month. But don't expect them to do anything about it just yet.

### **Equifax and other credit reporting companies could get surprising benefits in Senate banking deregulation bill** **Jim Puzzanghera, Los Angeles Times**

Equifax Inc. was publicly excoriated by senators last fall for its massive data breach. Now, the company and other credit reporting firms are in line to get some last-minute benefits in a banking deregulation bill that originally was designed to punish them by adding new consumer rights.

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## **House**

### **Despite Mueller's Push, House Republicans Declare No Evidence of Collusion** **Nicholas Fandos, The New York Times**

Even as the special counsel expands his inquiry and pursues criminal charges against at least four Trump associates, House Intelligence Committee Republicans said on Monday that their investigation had found no evidence of collusion between Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign and Russia to sway the 2016 election. Representative K. Michael Conaway, the Texas Republican who is leading the investigation, said committee Republicans agreed with the conclusions of American intelligence agencies that Russia had interfered with the election, but they broke with the agencies on one crucial point: that the Russians had favored Mr. Trump's candidacy.

**Trump Jr. rallies voters for Saccone on eve of election**  
**Chris Potter, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

Voters go to the polls today after a long run-up in the national spotlight to the special election for the seat vacated by Tim Murphy last year. Donald Trump Jr., the son of President Donald Trump, appeared alongside state Rep. Rick Saccone on Monday - a day on which polling data showed momentum shifting in favor of Mr. Saccone's Democratic rival, Conor Lamb.

**Inside the DCCC's stealth effort to help Conor Lamb**  
**Alex Roarty, McClatchy DC**

Publicly, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee did little to help Conor Lamb. Behind the scenes was a different story.

**137 U.S. House Democrats sign letter urging action against Russia**  
**Patricia Zengerle, Reuters**

Over two-thirds of U.S. House of Representatives Democrats urged President Donald Trump to enact sanctions on Russia, the latest push by lawmakers for a response to investigators' findings that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election. At least 137 of the Democrats in the House signed a letter, seen by Reuters on Monday, "strongly urging" Trump to

adhere to a law he signed last summer imposing sanctions on those who do business with Russia's military and intelligence sectors.

## **States**

### **States vow to fight offshore drilling by any means at their disposal**

**Danielle Muoio and Marie J. French, Politico**

The Trump administration may have the power to control what happens in federal waters, but state leaders are vowing to make it as difficult as possible for the White House to advance its offshore drilling plan. The move has drawn opposition from both Democratic and Republican leaders in nearly every affected state and mobilized the environmental community.

### **Bill Dix resigns from Iowa Senate after video with lobbyist is posted**

**William Petroski et al., The Des Moines Register**

Sen. Bill Dix, the leader of the Iowa Senate's Republican majority, resigned Monday, just hours after video was posted online showing him apparently kissing a lobbyist at a Des Moines tavern earlier this month. Dix met briefly with his Republican colleagues behind closed doors at 1 p.m.

### **Holder to Wisconsin to pump judge race**

**Edward-Isaac Dove, Politico**

Eric Holder is heading to Wisconsin to campaign this week as Democrats there aim to turn a race for state Supreme Court into the next nationalized race after Tuesday's Pennsylvania special House election. The election is April 3, and Holder is backing Rebecca Dallet, a Milwaukee County circuit court judge.

## **Advocacy**

### **Conservative groups pressure Congress to nix Obamacare bills in spending bill**

**Robert King, Washington Examiner**

Conservative groups are pressuring Congress to not include two bills intended to stabilize Obamacare's insurance exchanges in a two-year spending package coming up this month. A letter from organizations including Heritage Action, Club for Growth, Freedom Partners, FreedomWorks and Americans for Prosperity to members of Congress called the two bills "taxpayer bailouts."

### **Wendy Davis leaves door open to Planned Parenthood gig** **Reena Flores and Anna Palmer, Politico**

Could Wendy Davis, the former Texas state senator who rose to national prominence after her marathon 2013 filibuster protesting an anti-abortion bill, be in the running to next head of Planned Parenthood? The prominent Democratic surrogate isn't ruling out the possibility.

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### **A Message from CVS Health:**

#### **CVS Health: Making Health Care More Affordable**

At CVS Health, we're working to reduce health care costs by:

- Providing cost-effective service at more than 1,100 MinuteClinic locations nationwide
- Encouraging the use of lower-cost generic drugs that work as well as brand names
- Helping patients take the right medicine at the right time just as their doctor ordered



We're saving lives. And billions each year in medical costs.

[Learn more.](#)

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

### **Congress Must Act Quickly to End IRS Abuse and Protect Donor Privacy**

**Timothy Lee, Morning Consult**

Over the past year, we've witnessed a welcome campaign of deregulation and government reform from the Trump administration and Congress, with palpably positive results. The most fearsome federal agency of all, however, remains in desperate need of permanent reform.

### **Who's afraid of the NRA? Trump.** **Editorial Board, The Washington Post**

"We're going to get things done." So said President Trump last month assuring students, teachers and parents affected by school shootings of his resolve to find solutions to gun violence.

### **The National Security Tariff Ruse** **The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

Conservatives rightly criticized President Obama for stretching the law to issue executive edicts. The same scrutiny should attend the Trump Administration's dubious use of national security and Section 232 to justify its new tariffs on steel and aluminum.

### **Democrats Can't Win if They Don't Run** **The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

Regardless of who wins the special House election in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, the Democratic candidate, Conor Lamb, has already

accomplished something impressive by showing that his party ought to contest every election - no matter how daunting the odds. "You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take," goes the line often attributed to the hockey great Wayne Gretzky and quoted in school gymnasiums ever since.

### **The Most Unnerving Visit to the Middle East in a Long Time** **Lindsey Graham, The Wall Street Journal**

I recently returned from the Middle East, where I visited Jordan and Israel. I have been to the region many times, and this was the most unnerving visit I've taken in a long time.

## **Research Reports and Polling**

### **Dem Gains in CD18 Special** **Monmouth University Polling Institute**

Democrat Conor Lamb has taken a lead over Republican Rick Saccone in the special election for Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District. The Monmouth University Poll finds PA18 voters are divided on whether recently announced steel tariffs will help or hurt the local economy, but very few say this policy will influence their vote in Tuesday's election to fill the open House seat.



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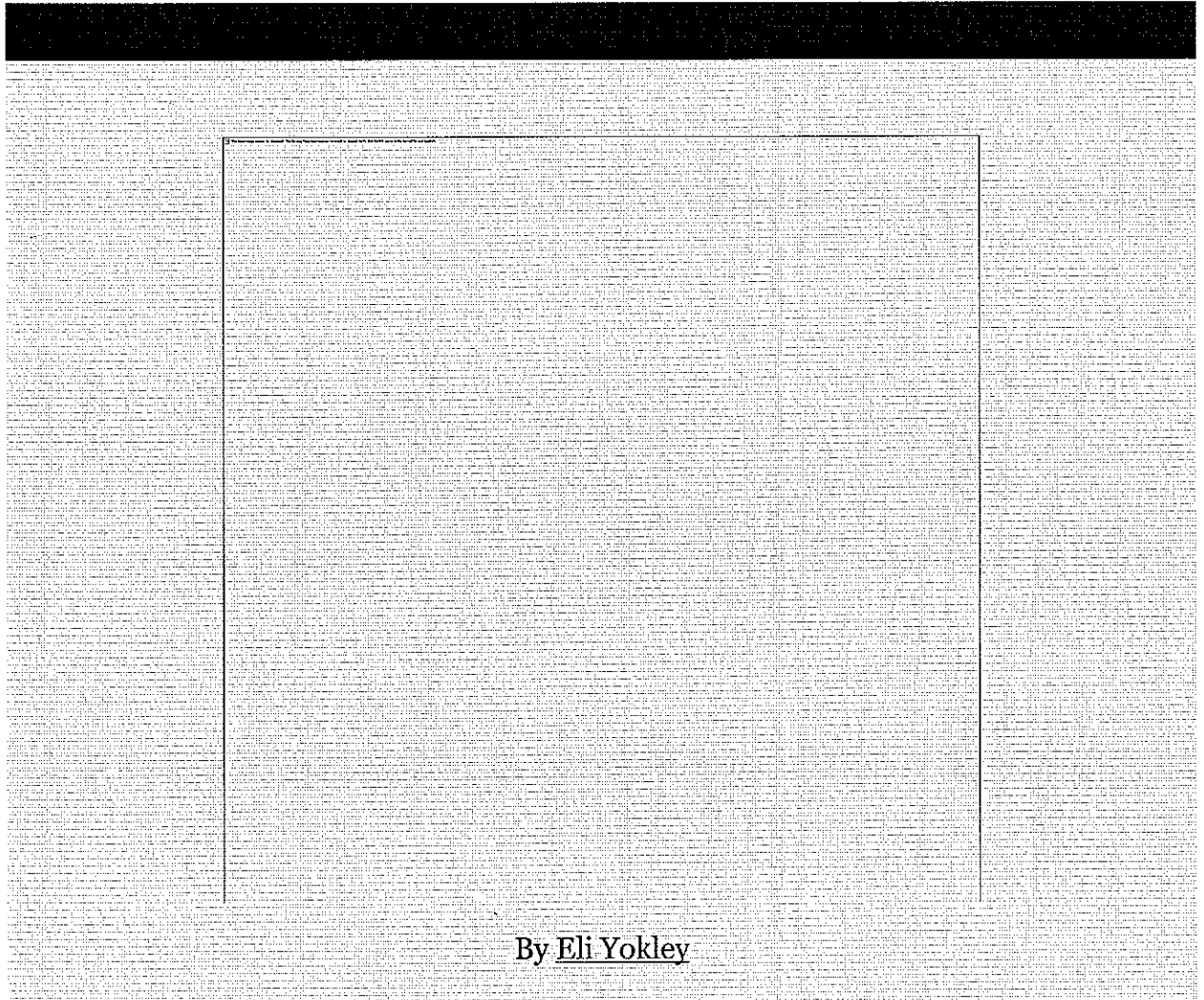
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**Subject:** Morning Consult Washington: Rep. Lipinski Survives Democratic Challenge in Illinois Primary  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm



By Eli Yokley

## Top Stories

- Illinois Rep. Daniel Lipinski, one of the most conservative Democratic members of Congress, survived a challenge from Marie Newman in Tuesday's primary election. Separately, the competitive Democratic race for the party's nomination to take on incumbent Rep. Peter Roskam (R) in the state's 6th District was too close to call as of early this morning, with Kelly Mazeski leading Sean Casten, 28.2 percent to 27.6 percent. ([Roll Call](#))
- The Senate blocked a war powers resolution that called for an end to U.S. involvement in the Yemen conflict, in a 55-44 vote against a procedural motion. The Trump administration and Republican leaders oppose the war powers resolution, arguing that limited military support did not require congressional approval. ([CNN](#))
- Republican lawmakers had hoped to introduce a \$1.3 trillion spending bill on Tuesday, but disagreements persisted over immigration, border security, tax breaks and the Gateway rail tunnel project between New York and New Jersey. Government funding expires at the end of Friday, and under current rules a House vote might not be held until that day, leaving little time for further action in the Senate to avert a government shutdown. ([Bloomberg](#))
- President Donald Trump did not follow warnings from his national security advisers when he congratulated Russian President Vladimir Putin on his re-election, according to unnamed officials familiar with the call. In his call with Putin, Trump also did not follow talking points from aides instructing him to condemn the recent poisoning of a former Russian spy in Britain. ([The Washington Post](#))
- The percentage of voters who say Trump's administration is running chaotically has risen since a March 1-5 poll, from 54 percent to 58 percent, as more members of his staff have left either by choice or involuntarily, according to a new poll. Over the same

time period, the percentage of GOP voters who said the administration is running somewhat or very well dropped from 74 percent to 68 percent. ([Morning Consult](#))

## Chart Review

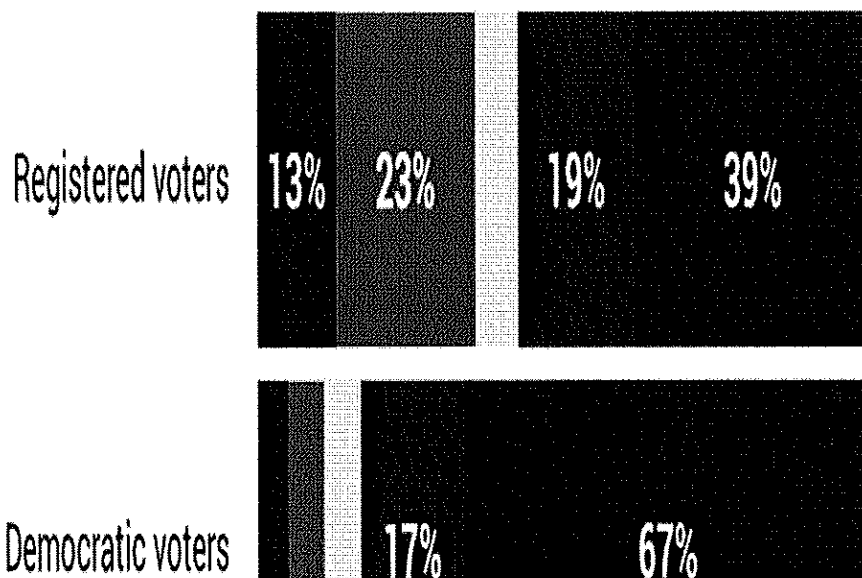
**More Voters See Chaos Unfolding in Trump's Administration,**  
**Polling Shows**  
**Morning Consult**



# Trump Administration Is Running Chaotically, Voters Say

Do you think President Donald Trump's administration is running...

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Don't know/No opinion
- Somewhat chaotically
- Very chaotically



## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### WEDNESDAY

Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on election security 10 a.m.

U.S. Trade Representative testifies before House Ways and Means Committee 10 a.m.

Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers testifies before Senate Budget Committee 10:30 a.m.

Agriculture Secretary Perdue testifies before House Appropriations subcommittee 1:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY

Sen. Cortez Masto, Reps. Issa and Clarke participate in Axios event 8 a.m.

Commerce Secretary Ross testifies before House Ways and Means Committee 9 a.m.

Lawmakers participate in Federalist Society's Article I Initiative conference 9 a.m.

HUD Secretary Carson testifies before Senate Banking Committee 10 a.m.

The Biden Institute hosts event on quality jobs 10 a.m.

AEI event on the future of infrastructure policy 2 p.m.

No events scheduled



## New Report: The Future of Retail

Insights into how consumers are reacting to changes in the retail industry, and what they're looking for in the future.

## **General**

### **Congress Stymied on \$1.3 Trillion Bill With Days to Go Before Shutdown**

**Erik Wasson, Bloomberg**

Congressional Republicans missed another target to unveil a \$1.3 trillion spending bill, as talks continued early Wednesday with just days remaining for House and Senate votes to avert a third government shutdown this year. Lawmakers had hoped to announce a bill by the end of the day Tuesday, but disagreements persisted over immigration, border security, tax breaks and a rail tunnel under the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey.

### **GOP leaders to Trump: Leave Mueller alone** **Alexander Bolton, The Hill**

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on Tuesday defended special counsel Robert Mueller as "thoroughly credible" as Senate Republicans pushed back on President Trump's criticism of his investigation. McConnell said he had full confidence in Mueller and praised his selection as "an excellent appointment."

### **New documents show nearly \$68,000 in recent premium flights, hotel stays for EPA's Pruitt**

**Brady Dennis and Juliet Elperin, The Washington Post**

The Environmental Protection Agency turned over documents to Congress late Tuesday detailing nearly \$68,000 in newly disclosed travel costs for Administrator Scott Pruitt during the past seven months. The records, which came at the request of House Oversight and Government

Reform Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) and were obtained by The Washington Post, show dozens of first-class domestic and overseas flights for Pruitt and other trip expenses between August and last month.

**Ben Carson Defends Buying \$31,000 Dining Set to Congress: 'I Left It to My Wife'**

**Glenn Thrush, The New York Times**

Ben Carson, the secretary of housing and urban development, told a House committee on Tuesday that he had "dismissed" himself from the decision to buy a \$31,000 dining room set for his office last year, leaving the details to his wife and staff. Mr. Carson offered a rambling, at times contradictory, explanation of the purchase of the table, chairs and hutch, a transaction that turned into a public relations disaster that led President Trump to consider replacing him, according to White House aides.

**Cambridge Analytica Suspends CEO Alexander Nix After Video's Release**

**Rebecca Ballhaus, The Wall Street Journal**

Cambridge Analytica suspended its chief executive, Alexander Nix, and said it is launching an independent investigation to determine if the company engaged in any wrongdoing in its work on political campaigns. The moves followed the release of a video on Monday that depicted Mr. Nix touting campaign tactics such as entrapping political opponents with bribes and sex.

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## **Presidential**

**Trump's national security advisers warned him not to congratulate Putin. He did it anyway.**

**Carol D. Leonnig et al., The Washington Post**

President Trump did not follow specific warnings from his national security advisers Tuesday when he congratulated Russian President

Vladimir Putin on his reelection - including a section in his briefing materials in all-capital letters stating "DO NOT CONGRATULATE," according to officials familiar with the call. Trump also chose not to heed talking points from aides instructing him to condemn the recent poisoning of a former Russian spy in Britain with a powerful nerve agent, a case that both the British and U.S. governments have blamed on Moscow.

**White House plans China trade crackdown Thursday**  
**Adam Behsudi and Andrew Restuccia, Politico**

The White House is preparing to announce on Thursday a plan to eventually hit China with tariffs and other trade restrictions, according to two administration officials. President Donald Trump is slated to outline the results of U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's investigation into allegations that China violates U.S. intellectual property rights by forcing American companies to transfer valuable technology to Beijing.

**South Korea's Leader Floats 3-Way Talks With Trump and Kim Jong-un**  
**Choe Sang-Hun, The New York Times**

President Moon Jae-in of South Korea said on Wednesday that he and President Trump could sit down for a three-way summit meeting with Kim Jong-un if their individual meetings with the North Korean leader on denuclearizing his country proceed well in the coming weeks. Mr. Moon and Mr. Kim are planning an inter-Korean summit in late April at Peace House, a South Korean conference hall inside Panmunjom, the so-called truce village that straddles the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ, separating the two Koreas.

**Star GOP lawyer Theodore B. Olson declines offer to join Trump legal team**  
**Robert Costa and Carol D. Leonnig, The Washington Post**

President Trump's legal team reached out in recent days to Theodore B. Olson, one of the country's most high-profile and seasoned litigators, to join forces amid mounting challenges in the probe of Russian

interference in the 2016 election, according to three people familiar with the discussions. The overture came as Trump, feeling more vulnerable to the investigation led by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, has told confidants he wants to recruit top-tier talent and shake up his group of lawyers, the people said.

### **Trump campaign sprints away from Cambridge Analytica** **Matthew Nussbaum, Politico**

President Donald Trump and his allies are well-practiced in the art of distancing themselves from their own campaign officials and activities once they run into controversy. The swiftly intensifying scandal involving Cambridge Analytica is no different.

## **Senate**

### **Senators block Yemen war powers resolution** **Ted Barrett, CNN**

The Senate blocked a war powers resolution Tuesday that called for an end to US involvement in the Yemen conflict. By a vote of 55 to 44, senators voted against a procedural motion that would have advanced the measure.

### **Homeland officials to talk election security** **Mary Clare Jalonick et al., The Associated Press**

Senators are expected to press Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on the department's efforts to secure state election systems as the Senate Intelligence Committee launches an effort to safeguard against foreign meddling in this year's elections. Nielsen will testify Wednesday along with Jeh Johnson, who was President Barack Obama's head of Homeland Security when Russian agents targeted election systems in 21 states ahead of the 2016 general election.



## **House**

### **Most Illinois General Election Match-Ups Set for November** **Simone Pathé, Roll Call**

Tuesday's Democratic primaries in Illinois are setting the stage for general election match-ups in four Republican-held districts that Democrats are targeting in November. With only a simple plurality required to win, most of the congressional primary results were decided Tuesday night.

### **Farenthold weighs resigning from Congress** **Jake Sherman et al., Politico**

Texas GOP Rep. Blake Farenthold is considering stepping down from Congress before the end of his term, according to multiple Republican sources with direct knowledge of private party conversations. Farenthold already announced he would not seek re-election in his southeastern Texas district, after POLITICO reported he settled a sexual harassment lawsuit with \$84,000 in taxpayer funds.

### **House Judiciary Chair expected to issue DOJ subpoena over Clinton emails as soon as this week** **Olivia Beavers and Katie Bo Williams, The Hill**

The head of the House Judiciary Committee is expected to subpoena the Department of Justice (DOJ) as soon as this week to obtain documents related to how the FBI handled its investigation into Hillary Clinton's email server, The Hill has learned. Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) and House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) have been leading a joint probe into what the two lawmakers say may be evidence of political bias in the highest levels at the Justice Department.

### **Kentucky Republican candidate suggests shooting Congressman John Yarmuth over NRA stance**

**Phillip M. Bailey and Thomas Novelty, Louisville Courier Journal**

A Republican candidate for Kentucky secretary of state faced a national backlash after he tweeted Tuesday that he would like to use Democratic Congressman John Yarmuth as target practice. Carl Nett, a former member of the U.S. Secret Service, who said he worked under contract with the CIA, according to his campaign page, was responding to a tweet from Yarmuth who was bragging about his F grade from the National Rifle Association.

**States**

**Campaign between Rauner, Pritzker expected to be expensive, brutal and long**

**Rick Pearson, Chicago Tribune**

Democratic billionaire J.B. Pritzker will take on wealthy Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner in November, a race expected to easily shatter Illinois campaign spending records and make a run at the national mark. Both candidates enter a nearly eight-month general election campaign needing to unify their respective parties following bruising primary campaigns.

**Christine Quinn bashes 'unqualified lesbian' Cynthia Nixon**  
**Carl Campanile, New York Post**

Former City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, an openly gay supporter of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, called Cynthia Nixon an "unqualified lesbian" a day after the actress announced she's going to challenge the governor in a primary. In an interview with The Post, Quinn also denounced Nixon for endorsing Bill de Blasio over her in the 2013 Democratic primary for mayor.

**Arizona Governor Helped Make State 'Wild West' For  
Driverless Cars**  
**Scott Neuman, NPR News**

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey began a push three years ago to attract makers of self-driving cars to the state and actively wooed Uber away from California as a venue for testing those vehicles. Shortly after his election in 2015, the governor signed an executive order supporting the testing and operation of self-driving vehicles that he said was about "innovation, economic growth, and most importantly, public safety."

**Supreme Court looks set to strike down California disclosure  
law for pregnancy centers**  
**David G. Savage, Los Angeles Times**

The Supreme Court sounded ready Tuesday to strike down a California disclosure law that requires pregnancy centers - including those that are faith-based - to notify women that the state offers subsidies for abortion. The state Legislature adopted the disclosure rule three years ago based on concerns that more than 200 "crisis pregnancy centers" sometimes used "deceptive advertising and counseling practices that often confuse [or] misinform" pregnant women about their options.

**Their Pay Has Stood Still. Now Oklahoma Teachers Could Be  
the Next to Walk.**  
**Dana Goldstein, The New York Times**

When she woke up one morning last week, Tiffany Bell, a teacher at Hamilton Elementary School here, had \$35 in her bank account. On take-home pay of \$2,200 per month, she supports her husband, a veteran who went back to school, and their three children, all of whom qualify for the Children's Health Insurance Program, a federal benefit for low-income families.

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## **Advocacy**

## **Koch network steps up lobbying to secure protection for 'dreamers'**

**Seung Min Kim, The Washington Post**

The powerful Koch network is ramping up its last-minute lobbying to get permanent protections for young immigrants known as "dreamers" in a must-pass spending bill. In a letter Tuesday to congressional leadership, top officials from three Koch-backed groups - Americans for Prosperity, Freedom Partners and the LIBRE Initiative - pressed Congress to include \$25 billion in border security cash paired with a pathway to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants who came here as minors.

## **Industries unite in battle against Trump's tariffs**

**Vicki Needham, The Hill**

Powerful business groups are mobilizing their forces, urging President Trump to stop a wave of sweeping tariffs they worry will hurt the U.S. economy and start a global trade war. Trump's decision to levy far-reaching tariffs has prompted business groups to form alliances in the hopes of persuading the president and lawmakers on Capitol Hill to curtail or kill the proposed trade moves.

## **Lobbyist says he was nearly killed by man he hired to investigate Seth Rich's death**

**Rachel Weiner, The Washington Post**

As conspiracy theories swirled around the murder of Democratic National Committee staffer Seth Rich, lobbyist Jack Burkman took the unusual step of launching his own private investigation. A man with military and security experience stepped up to help.

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## **Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives**

**For Trump, Enforcing Open Skies Agreement With UAE**  
**Critical to Protecting U.S. Workers**  
**Captain Daniel F. Carey, Morning Consult**

In January, the Trump administration secured one of the most important trade victories for the United States in years. After months of negotiations, officials from the United States and Qatar reached a milestone agreement related to the latter's massive subsidization of its state-owned airline, Qatar Airways.

**Trump's Bluster on the Opioid Epidemic**  
**The Editorial Board, The New York Times**

President Trump has declared that his administration is getting serious about the opioid epidemic several times since taking office. But he has repeatedly failed to offer a substantive plan - and he has floated at least a few truly absurd ideas. He did it again this week.

**Tackling China's Protectionism**  
**The Editorial Board, The Wall Street Journal**

The Trump Administration is expected to announce more tariffs as early as this week in an attempt to reduce China's trade surplus with the U.S. While these taxes are a mistake, as is Mr. Trump's obsession with trade deficits, there's no denying that Beijing's mercantilism has fueled the political backlash against free trade. China's increasingly predatory behavior, especially intellectual-property theft, poses a particular problem to a sustainable trading system.

**Republicans leading Russia probe ignored every lesson I**  
**learned as a prosecutor**  
**Adam Schiff, USA Today**

Almost 30 years ago, as a young assistant U.S. attorney, I prosecuted an FBI agent for providing classified information to the Russians. Little did I

know that my experience as a prosecutor would be so relevant to my current duties in Congress.

## Research Reports and Polling

### Fewer in U.S. See Middle East Conflict as Critical Threat RJ Reinhart, Gallup

Thirty-six percent of Americans say the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians poses a "critical threat" to U.S. interests, down from 45% in 2016 and the lowest percentage in Gallup's 14-year trend. Coincidentally, the percentage who say the conflict is an "important" but not critical threat has increased from 41% to 48%.



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**From:** Citizens for Community Values  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 5, 2018 9:28 AM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Growing Stronger: CCV Team Grows with Addition of New Executive



**CITIZENS FOR  
COMMUNITY VALUES**

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### **Citizens for Community Values Adds Curtis Wilson to Growing Team to Serve Churches & New Ministry Partners**

Citizens for Community Values announced that Curtis Wilson has joined the team as Vice President of Advancement. In the role, Curtis will spearhead CCV's efforts to support and serve Ohio churches, build strong ties with community allies, and cultivate support with families throughout the state who financially support the ministry.

"CCV is in a season of growth," said Aaron Baer, President of CCV. "We're on a mission to do justice in Ohio – to protect religious freedom, to build up families, and promote the dignity of life. The need for this mission grows daily, and adding Curtis to the team enables us to expand our work today, and ensure we'll be there tomorrow."

Curtis brings a unique skill set to CCV. Having worked in major donor development at Americans for Prosperity, and with churches throughout the world as a Global Engagement Officer with One Child Matters, Curtis will be reaching out across the state to come alongside churches and supporters.

"CCV is in a special position to transform Ohio for generations. You see real change when you empower the church to be a voice for freedom, life, and righteousness in Washington DC, at the Statehouse, at city councils, and at school boards. This is a message I'm thrilled to be taking to all corners of Ohio: come see all the good we can do when we stand up together," said Curtis Wilson.

Curtis will be leading a new project of CCV's called *The Daniel Initiative* to serve and empower churches to be light across the state and in their communities. More details on this revolutionary project will be released in the coming months.

**From:** Heartland Institute: Jim Lakely

**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 5:02 PM

**To:** Rep48

**Subject:** Heartland Institute is coming to Ohio. We hope to see you at these events.



Freedom Rising

# Heartland Events

*Mark your calendar. Plan to attend. Be our guest.*

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## Americans for Prosperity American Pay Raise Tax Reform & Job Growth

**WHAT:** AFP-Ohio Presents:  
American Pay Raise - Tax  
Reform and Job Growth

**WHEN:** Monday, April 23 from  
6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
Strongwater Event Space  
401 W. Town St.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
RSVP TODAY

**WHAT:** AFP-Ohio Presents:  
American Pay Raise –  
Millennials and Tax Reform

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 26 from  
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
The Butcher and Barrel  
700 Race St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
RSVP TODAY

---

Millions of Americans are keeping more of their hard-earned paychecks thanks to the American Pay Raise, otherwise known as tax reform.

But now what?

Wondering how exactly the American Pay Raise benefits you? Curious about how we can preserve tax reform's positive benefits going forward?

Wonder no more!

Join AFP-Ohio, the Buckeye Institute and the Heartland Institute on Monday, April 23 for an exciting forum on the impacts of lower taxes on job and economic growth, and an opportunity to network with like-minded professionals!

This is a great opportunity to network with like-minded young professionals and learn more about how tax reform affects you!

But wait, there's more!

On Thursday, April 26, AFP-Ohio, the Buckeye Institute, and the Heartland Institute will also be hosting an event discussing the effect of the American Pay Raise on millennials.

You'll learn what the American Pay Raise means for the current generation and how we can preserve tax reform's benefits going forward.

Hope to see you there!

**Register for the 26th!**



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This message was sent to [rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep48@ohiohouse.gov) from [jlakely@heartland.org](mailto:jlakely@heartland.org)

Heartland Institute: Jim Lakely  
The Heartland Institute  
3939 North Wilke Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

**"iContact"**  
TRY IT FOR FREE »

**From:** Max.Behlke@ncsl.org  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2018 4:46 PM  
**To:** Rep48  
**Subject:** Cap to Cap: SCOTUS: States Can Legalize Sports Betting

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**CapitoltoCapitol**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES



May 14, 2018

*In this issue...*

SCOTUS: States Can Legalize Sports Betting

White House Looks to Rescind \$15 Billion in Federal Spending

House to Vote Wednesday on Farm Bill

House Approves 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act

Net Neutrality Vote This Wednesday

Secretary DeVos Approves the ESSA Plans of South Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Colorado and Kentucky

Tennessee Department of Education Awaiting ESSA Compliance Ruling

First Lady Melania Trump Unveils "Be Best"

New Leadership and Opportunity to Address Student Homelessness

## **SCOTUS: States Can Legalize Sports Betting**

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the states and struck down a 25-year-old federal law known as the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA). Earlier today, the court voted 6-3 in favor of the state of New Jersey in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*, formerly known as *Chris Christie v. NCAA*, declaring PASPA unconstitutional as violative of the 10th Amendment.

= A

NCSL, along with other national organizations that represent state and local officials, filed an *amicus brief* in support of New Jersey. NCSL released a statement applauding the Supreme Court ruling saying, "NCSL supports every state's right to regulate gaming and sports betting, including both legalization and prohibition, without unwarranted federal preemption and interference." New Jersey can now move forward with its plan to legalize wagering, while other states will have the opportunity to alter their existing bans to allow for sports betting.

**NCSL Contacts:** Ethan Wilson

## **White House Looks to Rescind \$15 Billion in Federal Spending**

This past week, the White House released proposed rescission cuts covering 38 different programs and totaling over \$15 billion. The administration released a statement saying, "At the direction of President Trump, the Office of Management and Budget has worked diligently to identify wasteful and unnecessary spending already approved by Congress." Now Congress has 45 days to consider the package, which also freezes the